US $12.95

Beyond My Touch

TOMO MAEDA

Born December 23rd

•

Capricorn

•

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•

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•

Favorite Food: Potato Chips & Meat

•

Favorite Color: Light Gray, Black & White

•

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Books, Bookstores and Libraries

Published by:
DIGITAL MANGA PUBLISHING
1487 W 178th Street, Suite 300
Gardena, CA 90248
www.dmpbooks.com

Printed in Canada

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Beyond My Touch

DMP

Yaoi Manga

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Mizuno and Mamoru never saw eye-to-eye in school. Nervous glances, crippling shyness... every day, a tangled web of feelings threatened to keep them apart forever. But when Mamoru dies and returns as a ghost, the boys unearth a truly special connection. Can this new love from the great-beyond bring Mizuno back to life, or will his shadowy past bury all hope?

A supernatural pulse beats inside the entwined human hearts in Beyond My Touch, the series that takes on new love and hidden loss, the day-to-day dilemmas of growing-up and sheltered, secret passions. When you find your life's soulmate, shouldn't you go to the living end to share yourself completely?

MANGA / COMEDY/ ROMANCE
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ISBN 1-56970-928-9

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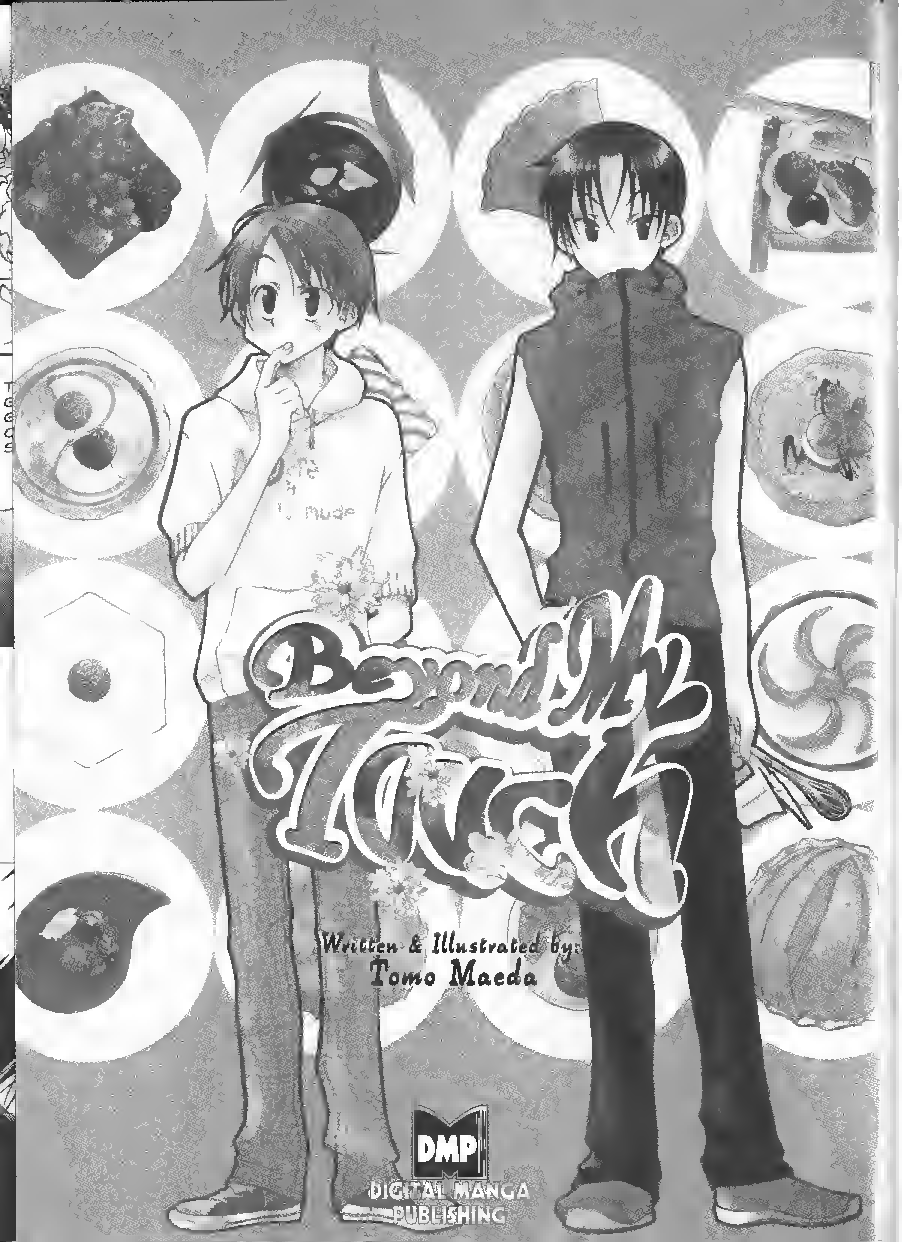
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DIGITAL MANGA PUBLISHING

BEYOND MY TOUCH 1
SPIRITUAL LANTERN
THEY SAY THE ONES WHO DIE WITH GREAT REGRETS BECOME A GHOST.
THAT GUY'S GOT NO COMMON SENSE.
T-SHIRT AND BLUE-JEANS FOR A FUNERAL?
THE ONES WITH PAINFUL GRUDGES...
...AND REGRETS — I'M SURE THEY VARY.
BUT NO MATTER HOW...

Beyond My Touch

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GIFT 103
COOL LIPS 107
RECIPE 147
POSTSCRIPT 173

Translation	Naomi Kokubo
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Editing	Stephanie Donnelly
Editor in Chief	Fred Lui
Publisher	Hikaru Sasahara

BEYOND MY TOUCH MENIHA SAYAKANI MIENEDOMO © TOMO MAEDA / SHINSHOKAN 2003 Originally published in Japan in 2003 by SHINSHOKAN CO., LTD. English translation rights arranged through TOHAN CORPORATION TOKYO. All rights reserved. English translation copyright © 2005 by DIGITAL MANGA, Inc. All other material © 2005 by DIGITAL MANGA, Inc. All rights reserved. No portion of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the copyright holders. Any likeness of characters, places, and situations featured in this publication to actual persons (living or deceased), events, places, and situations is purely coincidental. The DMP logo is ™ of DIGITAL MANGA, Inc.

English Edition Published by
DIGITAL MANGA PUBLISHING
A division of DIGITAL MANGA, Inc.
1487 W. 178th Street, Suite 300
Gardena, CA 90248

www.dmpbooks.com

First Edition: October 2005
ISBN: 1-56970-928-9

1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

Printed in Canada

BEYOND My touch 1

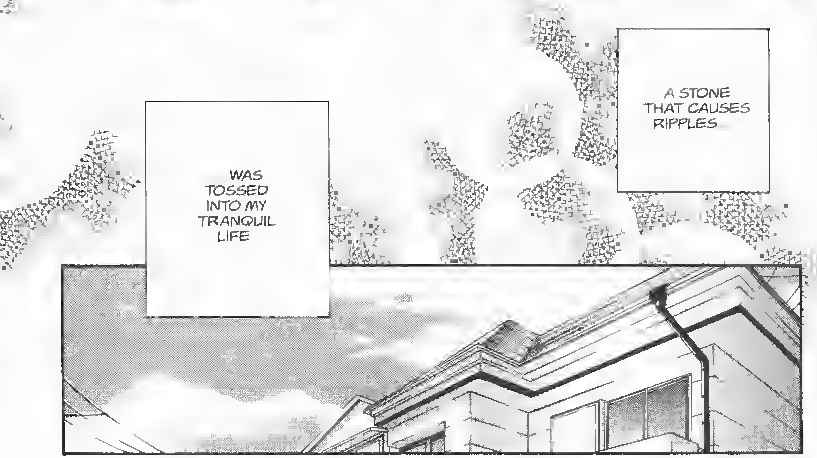
BUT I'VE GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH IT
WOW, YOU'RE SO COLD.
COLD?
I WOUND UP PICKING HIM UP AT THE FUNERAL TODAY.
THIS GHOST IS--MAMORU TAKAYAMA
A CLASSMATE WHO DIED THREE DAYS AGO
YOU DON'T GET IT
GEEZ.
I CAN'T DISAPPEAR THE WAY IT IS.
BECAUSE YOU'RE MY REGRET.
YOU PROBABLY DON'T EVEN SMOKE
AH, HA, HA, HA, YOU'RE SO UPTIGHT, MIZUNO.
A LOT MORE THAN I IMAGINED HOW FUNNY!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH JUST A KISS?!
PEOPLE DO IT WHEN THEY'RE DRUNK, DON'T THEY?
I'M A MINOR, THANKS
LET ME MAKE IT CLEAR THAT I WASN'T HIS FRIEND OR ANYTHING
AND I CERTAINLY AM NOT A GHOST

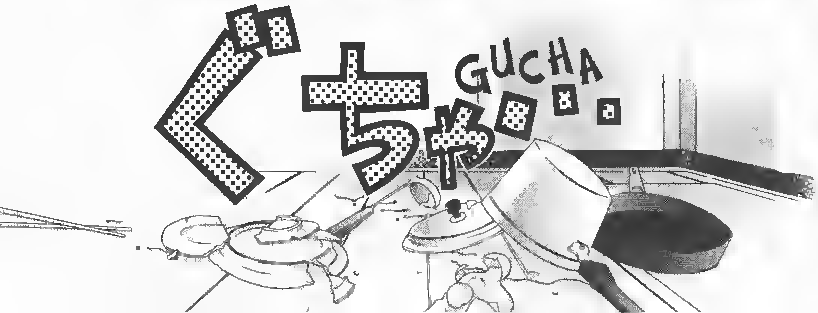
REGRETS.
PLEASE LET ME KISS.
MEOW?
CAN'T YOU LET ME DO IT, JUST ONCE?
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'D LOSE ANYTHING
MEOW MEOW
HE'S NOT A CAT
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M GONNA STICK MY TONGUE IN YOUR MOUTH OR GET YOU LAID OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT
I CAN'T SEE OR HEAR ANYTHING
JUST ONCE
OKAY?
JUST A SMOOCH♥
ほわ
FLOP
13
MEOW
THEN LEMME JUST DO IT.
...
....
....
....
WHAT?
REALLY?
IT'S TRUE
YOU'RE LYING!
THAT'S WHY YOU SHOULD JUST DISAPPEAR.

I'M CHEERFUL AND STRAIGHT BUT TOO HONEST
YEAH?
YOU SEEMED SO MOODY AND PERVERTED, THAT YOU CAUGHT MY ATTENTION
'CAUSE IT'S A PAIN IN THE ASS.
YOU WERE ALWAYS ALONE AND DIDN'T SEEM TO HAVE ANY FRIENDS
I HAD LOTS OF FRIENDS
'CAUSE IT'S TOO LOUD.
WHENEVER EVERYONE GOT EXCITED, YOU'D HIDE QUIETLY IN THE CORNER
YOU ALWAYS LOOKED MOODY
I'M THE OPPOSITE I LIKE GETTING EXCITED AND CARRIED AWAY
'CAUSE IT'S TOO TIRESOME
YOU ALWAYS KEPT YOUR DISTANCE, SO I COULDN'T TALK TO YOU
I LOVE CHATTING!
YOU'RE A LOT MORE...
BUT,
YOU TURNED OUT TO BE DIFFERENT FROM WHAT I THOUGHT.
YOU'RE ALSO...
...A LOT MORE ANNOYING THAN I THOUGHT.
MUMBLE
WHAT AN INTERESTING GUY.
...MOODY AND DEPRESSING THAN I'D EVEN IMAGINED
AH HA HA HA HA

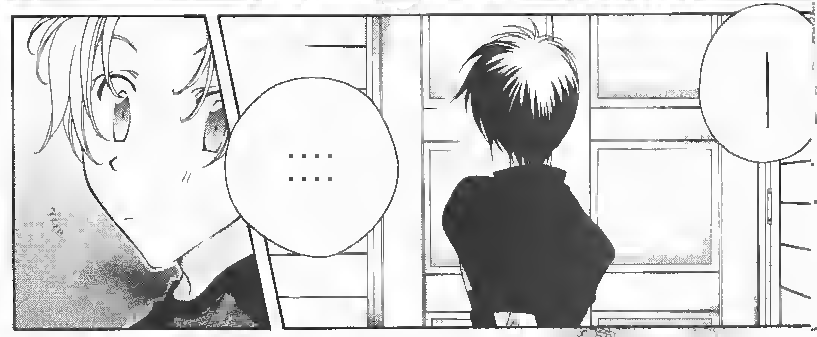
HE WAS A CLASSMATE AT MY HIGH SCHOOL.
I DON'T EVEN REMEMBER EVER TALKING TO HIM.
ALL I KNEW ABOUT HIM WAS HIS FACE, NAME AND WHERE HE SAT
I WENT TO HIS FUNERAL JUST TO BE POLITE
I DIDN'T EVEN FEEL SAD
DESPITE THAT...
LIKE I SAID,
I'VE BEEN ATTRACTED TO YOU EVER SINCE I SAW YOU
NOT ONLY THAT, I CAN TOUCH YOU ♥ HOW LUCKY RIGHT?
HEH HEH HEH
THEY SAY OPPOSITES ATTRACT, DON'T THEY?
YOU KNOW
I'M SO GLAD YOU CAN'T STILL SEE ME
THAT'S A MAGENT...

WHY DO I HAVE TO LISTEN TO HIM, WHEN I DON'T EVEN WANT TO HEAR A THING?
I GOT THIS GHOST TO HOLD A GRUDGE AGAINST ME
WHY ME?


A STONE THAT CAUSES RIPPLES
WAS TOSSED INTO MY TRANQUIL LIFE


GUCHA

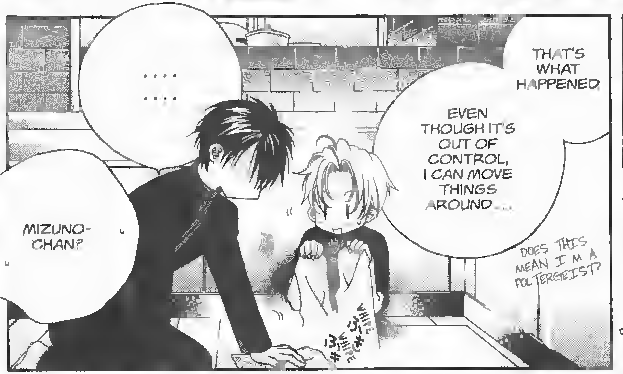
I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW, THEN.
G'NIGHT!
YOU CAN'T CONVINCE ME.
FLOP
YOU'RE WRONG I'M 8!
I DIG GIRLS ALSO
BESIDES, YOU'RE THE ONLY GUY I FELL IN LOVE WITH.
HEY, LET'S TALK SOME MORE.
NO, THANKS.
UH
BUT IT'S ONLY TEN! ARE YOU A GRADE SCHOOLER OR WHAT?
HUH? WHERE'RE YOU GOING?
TO BED.

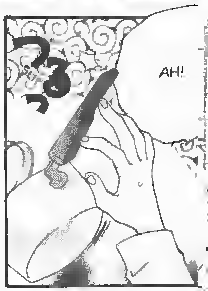

.....
.....
I

I CAN'T REMEMBER HOW.
?

MIZUNO...
ARE YOU UPSET?
NOPE.
OKAY.
I'LL HOUSE-SIT FOR YOU
I DON'T REALLY WANNA GO TO SCHOOL
WHAT?
AH, NOTHING.
AH, ON THE WAY BACK FROM SCHOOL, WILL YOU PICK UP SOME MANGA FOR ME?
I JUMP ON SUNDAY YOU KNOW
HEH HEH HEH
HAVE A GOOD DAY!
MAKE SURE TO HURRY BACK HOME
SLAM!!!
CAN'T HE SAY, "SEE YOU," OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
WHAT WAS THAT STRANGE PAUSE?

I WANTED TO FIX BREAKFAST FOR YOU...
I GUESS NO ONE ELSE WAS AROUND
BUT....
I'M SORRY.
THE RIPPLE CAUSING STONE


MIZUNO-CHAN?
EVEN THOUGH IT'S OUT OF CONTROL, I CAN MOVE THINGS AROUND....
THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED
DOES THIS MEAN I'M A POLTERGEIST?


AH!

HUH?
THE FIRE!!

MIZUNO...
IT'S OKAY
BESIDES, I DON'T EAT BREAKFAST
AS LONG AS YOU DON'T START A FIRE
Er-

WHOA
SNITTER

WELCOME HOME, MIZUNO-CHAN!
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU!
I WAS LONELY
.....
.....
HEY, WHAT ABOUT THE MANGA?
MANGA?
NO?
SO, HOW WAS IT? ANYTHING INTERESTING AT SCHOOL?
AH ON TV TODAY--
UHH YOU'VE GOT MESSAGES TOO
I CAN FIX BREAKFAST
HERE, LOOK
DON'T YOU THINK I'VE IMPROVED? I MEAN AT MOVING THINGS
AND
ZIP IT
I BET I CAN DO IT PERFECTLY BY TOMORROW.
WILL YOU BE QUIET FOR A WHILE?
I WAS SO BORED, I SPENT TIME PRACTICING AND GOT WAY BETTER

SORRY, I SHOULDN'T HAVE ASKED
SHE LEFT WITH HER LOVER WHEN I WAS TEN OR SO.
APPARENTLY, MY DAD HAD A LOT OF AFFAIRS.
I KNEW WHAT WAS GOING ON EVEN THOUGH I WAS JUST A KID.
MY DAD'S SO BUSY HE'S HARDLY HERE
WE GET A CLEANING LADY ONCE A WEEK
REALLY? BOTH OF THEM?
CLEANING LADY?..
NO, I DON'T HAVE A MOTHER.
OH YOU DON'T?
3
I SEE
HMMM
2
1
WHAT?
TWO AND I'M HAPPY TO HEAR IT, BECAUSE -
I MEAN NOT WHAT I HEARD BUT THE FACT YOU'D TELL ME ABOUT IT
NO WONDER YOU'VE BECOME TWISTED
THREE I REALIZE THAT I REALLY LIKE YOU THAT'S WHY I SAID "I SEE"
AH, I MEAN ONE YOU'RE MOODY FOR A REASON

(10 SECONDS LATER...)
CAN I TALK NOW?
HOW MANY SECONDS WAS THAT?
IT ACTUALLY MEANS IT'S "NO USE" OR A WORTHLESS EFFORT
BUT I DON'T CARE FOR PICKLES MADE WITH RICE BRAN
IT MAKES IT TASTE BETTER I MEAN, PUTTING A NAIL IN RICE BRAN
AH I KNOW WHAT IT MEANS
IT'S LIKE STICKING A NAIL IN RICE BRAN
OH, BY THE WAY
I'M SUCH A PICKY EATER THAT I USED TO GET TOLD OFF A LOT
TEHEE
..WHAT ABOUT YOUR PARENTS? I HAVEN'T SEEN ANYONE AROUND

WHEN I'M ALONE, BUT—
MIZUNO!
GET UP! LOOK!
HUH?
GEEZ IT'S TOUGH
DON'T FALL ASLEEP THERE
ARE YOU HAVING THAT PRE-MADE DINNER AGAIN?
WANT ME TO FIX YOU SOMETHING?
NO THANKS
IT'S DEFINITELY EASIER...
AH NOT NICE
NO MANGA AGAIN?
HOW STINGY!!
I AM
...BOTHERSOME, BUT...
DESPITE THAT—
HEH, HEH, HEH
I GOT BETTER!!
SEE? SEE?
I DON'T EAT BREAKFAST I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR IT
WHAT ABOUT DINNER? YOU PROMISE?!
AH! MANGA AGAIN!
CAN I YOU EAT THE EGG I COOKED FOR YOU?
BOO— BOO—
WAIT A SEC WHAT AREN'T YOU EATING?

ごちゃ MESS
UHH... I'M SORRY
OH, NO I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED
A WEIRD...
GHOST
OH, WELL, I THOUGHT I COULD DO IT RIGHT TODAY. ARE YOU UPSET?
AH HA HA HA
I SAID IT WAS OKAY
AND YOU HAVEN'T STARTED ANY FIRES YET
NOPE
I DON'T CARE, ANYWAY
AH, MIZUNO!
IT'S NOT LIKE I'LL DIE BECAUSE OF THE MESS
I'M GOING TO SCHOOL
HAVE A GOOD DAY!!
I THINK HE'S...
SHUT
THE UMP AND UNDAY!! THE MANGA!!

THAT'LL BE 375 YEN, TOTAL.

CLOSE

TONIGHT...
LEMME SEE.
MAYBE I'LL FIX SOME CURRY FOR DINNER.
I HAVE ENOUGH VEGGIES AT HOME, SO ALL I NEED IS THE CURRY PASTE....
I THINK I CAN GET IT AT A CONVENIENCE STORE.
THE SUPERMARKET IS TOO FAR.

"WELCOME HOME."
WHAT'S UP?
AREN'T YOU HOME?
HEY?!
HE'S NOT HERE
WHY?
HE WAS HERE IN THE MORNING...
HEY...

WAS THIS HOUSE
THIS DARK BEFORE?
HUH?
.....

HEY...
HEY, WHAT ABOUT THE MANGA?
HEY?
WAS IT
THIS QUIET?
WELCOME HOME!
HOW'S THE SCHOOL?
DID YOU MAKE ANY FRIENDS?

DRIP
'CAUSE...
...YOU--
WH-
WHAT'S THAT FOR?
I MEAN IT DIDN'T HURT BUT--
WHY ALL OF A SUDDEN...
AHH...
UMM
MIZUNO...?
WHAT?
WHAAT?!
UHH
MIZU--
I WAS REALLY SURPRISED...
WHY...
REALLY SURPRISED BY MYSELF...
WHAT?
...
...
HUH? WHAT'S WRONG? YOU LOOK PALE
TAKA--
POP
HUH? WHAT?
WHAT'S WRONG?
SPUTTERING AND ALL
HEY!
WHERE
HE...
VANISHED?
WHERE'D YOU GO?
TAKAYAMA!!
WHEN I WAS ROAMING ABOUT, I HEARD YOUR VOICE...
BUT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE THEY'LL FREAK OUT.
I WANTED TO READ MANGA AT THE BOOKSTORE
OH, WELL. I TOOK A WALK, BUT I COULDN'T GO TOO FAR
I GUESS I'VE ALREADY BECOME THE GUARDIAN SPIRIT OF YOUR HOUSE
HEH...
Y-
YOU MORON!!
WHAM
OUCH.

YOU'LL DISAPPEAR, LEAVING ME BEHIND I KNOW IT
WHAT AM I DOING?
I SHOULD JUST STOP THINKING—
HOW EMBARRASSING— SHOUTING AND ALL
LIKE I'M USED TO DOING
IF IT DON'T FEEL
MIZUNO
IF I DON'T NOTICE
THAT I'M LONELY
JUST LEAVE ME ALONE YOU SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME
WHAT THE—? WHAT MAKES YOU SAY THAT? YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW ME
HE'LL DISAPPEAR ANYWAY.
I'LL BE LIVING LONELY AGAIN— WITH NO ONE TO TALK TO.
YOU'RE— YOU'RE—
IF I GET USED TO HAVING YOU AROUND, IT'LL BE TOO HARD
YOU'RE GOING TO LEAVE SOON ENOUGH!!

?!
WHAT'S WITH THIS TENSION?
HUH?
UHH LIKE I SAID
WHY?! WHY DID YOU?
IF YOU'RE GONNA DISAPPEAR ANYHOW -- DON'T BOTHER SHOWING UP IN THE FIRST PLACE!!
YOU
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
RUB
WHY'D YOU COME TO MY PLACE?
WHY
I'VE TRIED SO HARD NOT TO SAY THAT
I'VE HAD TO STOP MYSELF
FROM SAYING "HELLO" AND "GOOD NIGHT"
DO YOU BUG ME?

I MEAN, I'M NOT JOKING
SOMEHOW... I WANNA PICK ON YOU, THAT SORT'A FEELING ♥
GRIT
HOW SADISTS FEEL
IT'S SHOCKING THAT I DO
SEEING YOU
MAKES ME FEEL HAPPY - A LITTLE
CRYING AND GETTING UPSET LIKE THAT
FOR A LONG TIME...
WHEN I LOOKED AT YOU CAREFULLY, I NOTICED THAT YOUR PRETTY FACE WAS LIKE THAT OF A LIFELESS DOLL
IT BOTHERED ME THINKING THAT YOU'RE SUPPRESSING YOUR FEELINGS.
THAT'S WHY...
ALL I WANTED WAS...
WHAT YOU LOOKED LIKE IF YOU CRIED OR GOT ANGRY
IT DIDN'T MATTER WHICH
I WANTED TO FIND OUT
THAT'S WHY...
THEN...
I'LL BE FINE
MIZUNO
I KIND'A UNDERSTAND...
WHAT IS IT?

...THEN I'LL BE INSIDE YOU AT THAT MOMENT...
IF YOU CAN LET ME LIVE INSIDE YOU,
EVEN IF I DISAPPEAR...
A PERSON'S HEART...
...IS SOMETHING...
THAT'S WHY...
YOU SHOULD
...THAT NEVER DISAPPEARS.
...GET ANGRY, CRY...
IF YOU REMEMBER ME AND GET UPSET
...OR CRY...
...OR LAUGH IF YOU COULD DO THAT
...AND LAUGH A LOT MORE,
...AND DON'T LET ME... DIE.

...FOR YOU TO DO THAT WHEN YOU WERE WITH ME...
...AND FOR ME.
YOU KNOW, MIZUNO
THAT'D MAKE ME ALIVE INSIDE YOUR HEART, RIGHT?
WHEN I WAS ALIVE, I WASN'T INSIDE YOU
NOW EVEN THOUGH I'M DEAD...
I'M ALIVE INSIDE YOU, YOU KNOW?

...AND I UNDERSTAND
...JUST A LITTLE... AND I IMAGINED IT...
WHAT ABOUT THE BENTO I MADE TODAY?
AHH WHAT'RE YOU COOKING?
HEY!
THAT'S NOT ENOUGH
YOU MEAN YOU'LL EAT?
...IF THE TIME WE SHARE DOESN'T DISAPPEAR...
SOMEDAY, HE'LL DISAPPEAR,
AND I'LL HAVE TO LIVE ALONE AGAIN, BUT...

GEEZ
YOU'LL DISAPPEAR ONCE YOU KISS ME, WON'T YOU?
I CAN'T LET MY GUARD DOWN, CAN I?
WILL YOU?
SHOVE
HUMPH
CAN'T YOU IGNORE THAT DETAIL?
WHY? WE WERE HEADING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, WEREN'T WE?
BUT I DON'T LIKE THAT
I CAN'T
THUD
LOST ENERGY
JUST GIVE UP
WHAT'S THE POINT OF DOING IT WITH A GUY?
I THOUGHT ABOUT IT...
KISSING OR
MAKING ME DISAPPEAR?
WHAT? YOU DON'T LIKE WHAT?
AHHH, I'M STARVING

THE LONELINESS I FEEL WILL BE DIFFERENT FROM WHAT I FELT BEFORE

THERE WILL BE SOME REMNANT -- SOMETHING INVISIBLE -- A PART OF HIM WILL STILL REMAIN

LET'S EAT

WHAT'RE YOU EMBARRASSED ABOUT?

SHOCK!!

HUH? BUT IT'S "JUMP," ISN'T IT?

AHHH?!

C'MON IT'S THE MONTHLY!!

WHEN WE TALK ABOUT "JUMP," WE MEAN THE WEEKLY EDITIONS!!

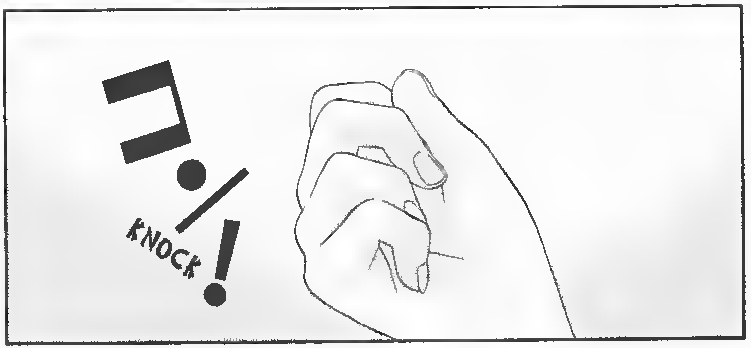
HOW WAS I SUPPOSED KNOW?!

WHAT'S UP? CAN'T YOU EVEN GET IT RIGHT?

BEYOND MY TOUCH 1 *END

BREAKFAST IS READY.
HEY, YOU'RE GOING TO SCHOOL TODAY, RIGHT?
KNOCK
MIZUNO
KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK
MIZUNO!
MIZU...
KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK
HEY
I GOT IT.
I REALLY GOT IT
AHH?
ROLL
...NOOOOH.
CREEP
KNOCK!

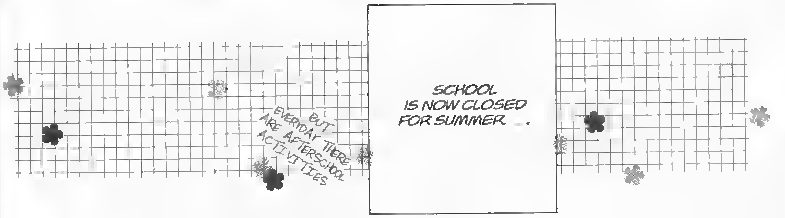
WHEN I WOKE...
KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK


KNOCK!

IT'S BEEN A MONTH SINCE MY CLASSMATE, MAMORU TAKAYAMA, PASSED AWAY.
AND THE GHOST STILL LIVES WITH ME.
HE'S CHEERFUL AND BRIGHT, BUT A GHOST IS A GHOST, NONETHELESS.
LIKE I SAID...
APPARENTLY, HE HAS SOME REGRETS.
I WANT TO KISS YOU, ANYWAY
MY DILEMMA IS COMPLICATED.
I DON'T CARE TO DIE IN PEACE, BUT...
HIS REGRET

TAKAYAMA...
YOU IDIOT...
HEY, WHAT'S WITH YOUR REACTION?
NOT NICE
IF YOU WANT THE MORNING SMOOCH THAT MUCH I CAN GIVE YOU ALL YOU WANT.
かばいRISE
TWITCH

YOU'VE GOT A GOOD NOSE
IT'S JUST THE LEFT-OVER SMELL.
DON'T WORRY I TURNED OFF THE STOVE ALREADY.
IT'S BURNING!
IT SMELLS FUNNY. WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?
AHHH...


SCHOOL IS NOW CLOSED FOR SUMMER...
BUT EVERYDAY THERE ARE AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

YOU...
WHAT?
UHH...
WHAT ABOUT ME...
?
TURN
DISAPPOINTED
I CHANGED MY MIND
IT'S NOTHING
I'M GOING
SIGH...
WHAT WAS IT? IT BOTHERS ME NOW
JUST SAY IT.
BUT...
BANG
GEEZ, YOU'RE NOT NICE
...
...

I WONDER IF THE CHEEK'S OKAY OR THE FOREHEAD MAYBE
SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK I SHOULD DO?
I DON'T CARE.
UHH
CHEW CHEW
MISO SOUP (INSTANT)
RICE (READY-MADE)
BUT, ON THE OTHER HAND, IF I DON'T, I'M CONSTANTLY FRUSTRATED
AAAA
...
SINCE THAT'S MY REGRET, IF I DO KISS YOU, I MIGHT END UP DYING IN PEACE
SUNNY-SIDE UP (BURNT BLACK)

...THIS GHOST IS IN LOVE WITH ME
GRUMBLE
HUH? AM I A MASOCHIST?
OH, NO
WELL BUT I LIKE THAT ABOUT YOU
GEEZ, YOU'RE COLD AS USUAL
GRUMBLE
GRUMBLE
APPARENTLY
...

TAKAYAMA
HUH?
BUT...

...IT DOESN'T SOUND RIGHT
I DON'T DISLIKE SUMMER
DOES THAT MEAN I'M IN LOVE?
TADAA
WELCOME HOME!!
TO LOVE MEANS—
I DON'T DISLIKE-
HEY, HOW WAS THE SCHOOL?
DID ANYTHING FUN HAPPEN?
BODY TEMPERATURE IS INCREASING
IT'S HOT

"WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE IN LOVE?"
MEEEEN
SWELTERING
THE COLOR OF THE SKY ISN'T AS BLUE, BUT...
THINGS LIKE A TOWERING CLOUD..
A SUDDENLY SHOWERING RAIN..
AND A MIRAGE OF SUMMER—
UNLIKE WHAT IT USED TO BE,
IT'S HOT...
AND I FEEL WEAK TOO

YOU-
YOUR FACE LOOKS TOO ROSY YOU OKAY?
SUNSTROKE?
WHAT?
....
I GUESS
I'M SO USEFUL
LEMME SEE. FEVER ?
....
SHOVE!!
AWW

CHINK
HERE
CLUNK
IT'S OBVIOUS YOU CAN'T HANDLE SUMMER
I BET YOU'VE GOT LOW BLOOD PRESSURE
I BET YOU'VE GOT HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE
AH, HA, HA, HA, YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT
BUT I'M DEAD
C'MON, DON'T PASS OUT THERE
AIR-CONDITIONING'S ON
COME HERE. IT'S COOLER THIS WAY
UKGH
IF YOU'RE GONNA PASS OUT, DO IT AFTER YOU SIT DOWN
HOW 'BOUT IT?
AM I USEFUL?
IT'S BARLEY TEA...
YEH

YAWN
EXTRA PARTICLES FROM THE SOLAR SYSTEM FOUND INSIDE A METEOR?
NUCLEAR LASER?
ANCIENT WIND DIRECTION
WHAT'S THAT?
ZIP IT
BRIGHT QUE-?
NEW NAND -
HOW TO READ IT?
WHAT'S THIS?
A SCIENCE BOOK?
HEAVY ELEMENTS?
SORT-OF
RELEASING SILVER?
IS IT ANY GOOD?
DO GHOSTS FALL ASLEEP?
HE'S LIGHT
ZZZZZ
KNOCK
KNOCK
KNOCK

IT'S NO FUN
WHAT A TOUCHY-FEELY SORT A GUY...
CAUSE I'M A GHOST, I CAN'T TELL THE TEMPERATURE
I GUESS I'M LUCKY THAT I CAN'T TOUCH
OH, WELL.
EMBRACE
IT'S BORING! PLAY WITH ME
I DON'T WANT TO
YOU'RE PESTERING ME
YOU TOO
NOPE
GO AHEAD
CAN I WATCH TV?
A PRE-MADE DINNER FROM THE CONVENIENCE STORE AGAIN...
NO THANKS

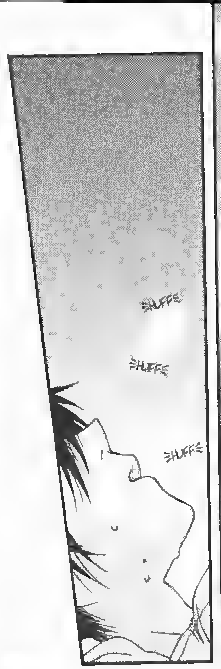
IT'S WARM LIKE USUAL
TOUCH
MAYBE NOT.
WAIT A SEC
I DIDN'T FEEL ANY TEMPERATURE YESTERDAY.
BECAUSE I'M A GHOST, I DON'T SENSE THAT SORT OF THING VERY WELL — DESPITE THAT, HE'S HOT — THAT MEANS...
I'M THINKING.
SWEAT..
DESPITE THE AIR-CONDITIONING?
LEMME SEE
AH BUT SOMEHOW
IDIOT
THAT MEANS...
SHUFF
SHUFF
SHUFF

MIZUNO!
KNOCK
KNOCK
MIZUNO -CHAN
DIDN'T I TELL YOU?
IF YOU DON'T GET UP...
I CAN'T HELP IT.
I'M COMING IN
SILENT
UNEVEN LOW BLOOD PRESSURE
IT'S TIME TO GET UP! C'MON!
MIII ZUUU NOOO!!
HOW DARE YOU LEAVE ME LIKE THAT LAST NIGHT?
YOU'LL BE LATE GET UP!
UNEXPECTEDLY SPINELESS?
SOMETHING'S WRONG
HE'S SUPPOSE TO LEAP OUTTA BED NOW.
HMM?
SILENT
I'M GONNA KISS YOU.....
ON THE CHEEK
MMMMM...
WIDE-EYED

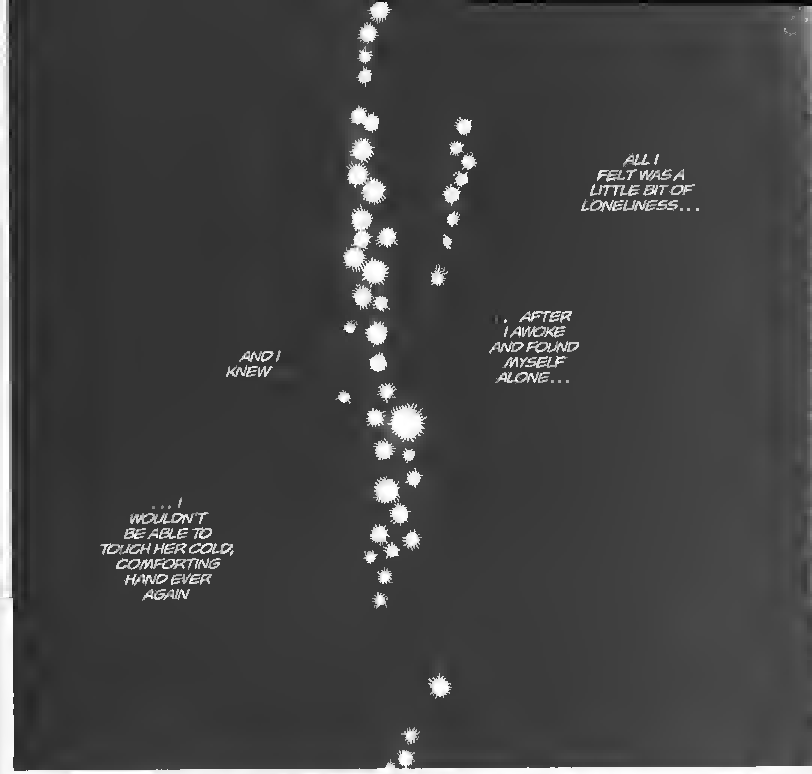
EVEN THOUGH I CAN'T UNDERSTAND HOW SHE FELT WHEN SHE LEFT A SICK, FEVERISH CHILD BEHIND

THAT'S WHY I THINK I DIDN'T HOLD A GRUDGE.

ESPECIALLY TODAY.



YOU OKAY?
MIZUNO


ALL I FELT WAS A LITTLE BIT OF LONELINESS...
... AFTER I AWOKE AND FOUND MYSELF ALONE...
AND I KNEW
... I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO TOUCH HER COLD, COMFORTING HAND EVER AGAIN

JUST A LITTLE BIT—

I WONDER IF I CAN COOL YOU DOWN
HOW'S THIS?
HERE
HEH HEH HEH
TOUCH
YEAH...
I WONDER IF IT'S A COLD OR SUNSTROKE
HMMM
YOU STILL HAVE A FEVER
HEY! WHAT'RE YOU CRYING?
I MEAN...
I WAS SO WORRIED
YOU'VE BEEN SLEEPING OVER TWENTY FOUR HOURS... WITH A FEVER
BUT AT LEAST IT'S NOT AS HOT AS LAST NIGHT.
COOL
WHAT?
IT'S COLD... I MEAN, YOURS.
AH, OF COURSE, IT'S BECAUSE YOU'VE GOT A FEVER.
DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT
I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO. I COULDN'T TAKE YOU TO THE HOSPITAL.
YOUR HAND...
SOMEHOW,
HE'S ACTING PRETTY HONEST.
AHEM
AH, NOW THAT YOU'RE AWAKE, I JUST REMEMBERED
YOU SHOULD TAKE SOME MEDICINE.
THEY SAY ILLNESS SOFTENS PEOPLE'S HEARTS,
HMM?
IT FEELS NICE
NICE AND COLD

... LET YOU REST IN PEACE — IN HEAVEN SOON
I SHOULD...
UNTIL NOW,
IT WAS NORMAL FOR ME TO BE ALONE
...BUT NOW
...THAT I'M LONELY
UNTIL I KNEW WHAT IT MEANT NOT TO BE LONELY, I DIDN'T KNOW.
MIZU -
BUT... I'M SORRY
I KNOW...
...WANT TO...
I DON'T...
MIZUNO?
WHAT'S WRONG?
I DON'T NEED IT
I DON'T NEED ANYTHING
YOU DON'T NEED TO DO ANYTHING
JUST STAY HERE...

I'M HERE.
I'LL STILL BE LONELY.
YOU CAN REST ASSURED
SO, DON'T WORRY
I WON'T DISAPPEAR.

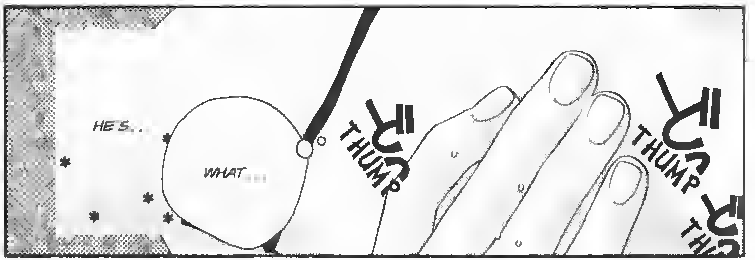
ANYMORE
TO BE WITH
FIND MYSELF WITHOUT SOMEONE
EVEN IF THAT SOMEONE IS STILL...
INSIDE MY HEART...

I DON'T WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN IF GOING THERE MEANS I'D HAVE TO MAKE YOU CRY
OKAY?
HUH?
WHAT IS IT?
MY FACE FEELS HOT
I'M HOT
AND MY CHEST HURTS.
AHHH.
HIM--
TO LOVE MEANS--
.....
HMM.
MMMM
WHAT DOES IT MEAN
AHHH, I GOT IT !!
TO LOVE?

SORRY
SOMEHOW I WONDER
...
OH, WELL, IT'S OKAY IT'S NOT LIKE IT ACTUALLY HURTS.
IT'S HORRIBLE
WHAT'S THAT ABOUT? WHY DID YOU HIT ME?
UHH-- UHH-- DON'T KNOW WHY
DON'T KNOW WHY? WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "DON'T KNOW WHY?"
DON'T KNOW
HERE, LET ME CHECK YOUR FOREHEAD
PULL
BY THE WAY, CAN YOU GET UP NOW? HOW DO YOU FEEL?
HOW DO I FEEL?
ABOUT WHAT?
MMMM
IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE BACK TO NORMAL, BUT
I MEAN, YOUR FEVER! FEVER!! GONE?

G'MORNING, MIZUNO!!
WOW
はち
SLAP
ん
OUCH!!

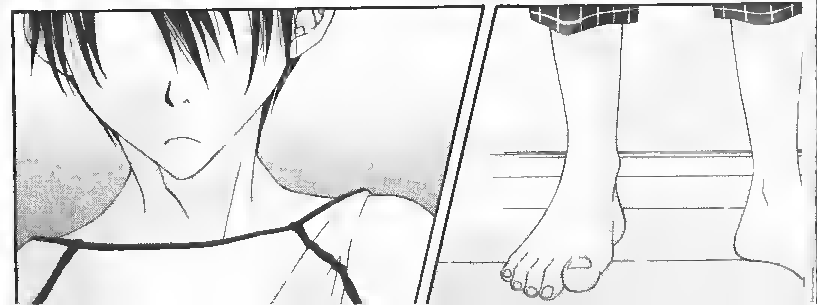
FLUSH


HE'S...
WHAT...
DUB THUMP
DUB THUMP

WHY'S MY HEART THUMPING LIKE THIS?
BUT TO TOP IT OFF, THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT HIM..
WHY DID THE BLOOD SHOOT UP TO MY HEAD?
WHAT'S THIS?
.... NOT VERY EXPERIENCED OR SENSITIVE TO BEGIN WITH.

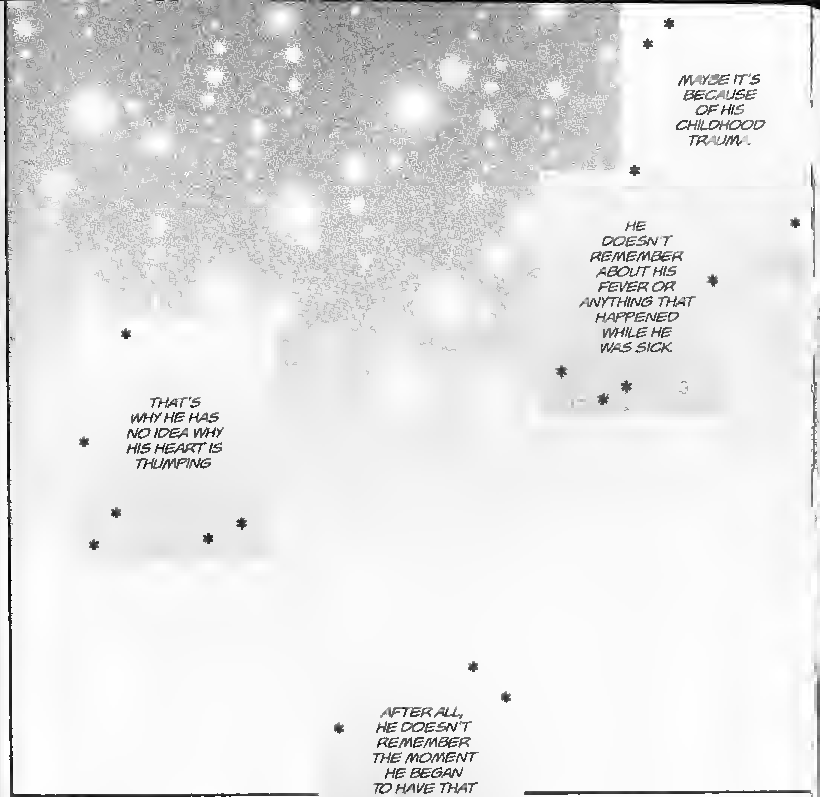
BESIDES, DON'T COME INSIDE MY ROOM WITHOUT PERMISSION!!
I'M NOT A KID I CAN CHECK MY OWN TEMPERATURE!!
WH-- WH-- WH--
SLAM
IDIOT!
NOT AGAIN!!
MIZUNO
PUNCH

WHY ?
WITHOUT PERMISSION ?
IDIOT ?



I WAS NEVER INTERESTED IN PEOPLE, AND IT DIDN'T MATTER IF THEY WERE AROUND OR NOT
TO THINK OF IT, I NEVER PAID ATTENTION TO ANYONE
THEY WERE LIKE GHOSTS.
THAT'S WHAT THEY WERE TO ME AND I WAS TO THEM.
THAT'S WHY...

BEYOND MY TOUCH 3


MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE OF HIS CHILDHOOD TRAUMA.
HE DOESN'T REMEMBER ABOUT HIS FEVER OR ANYTHING THAT HAPPENED WHILE HE WAS SICK.
THAT'S WHY HE HAS NO IDEA WHY HIS HEART IS THUMPING
AFTER ALL, HE DOESN'T REMEMBER THE MOMENT HE BEGAN TO HAVE THAT FEELING

BEYOND MY TOUCH 2 *END

NO MATTER HOW MANY REGRETS I HAVE...

THERE WILL BE TIME WHEN I MUST LEAVE THIS WORLD.

IT'S ALMOST A MONTH AND A HALF SINCE MAMORU TAKAYAMA BEGAN LIVING WITH IORI MIZUNO.

SO PLEASE REALIZE BEFORE I DO.

THE GHOST, WHO REGRETS NOT HAVING KISSED MIZUNO WHILE HE WAS ALIVE...

...TO CHANGE THE TACITURN AND INDIFFERENT MIZUNO.

...USED HIS NATURAL CHARMS AND CHEERFULNESS (WHICH DON'T REALLY SUIT A DEAD PERSON).

AND FINALLY...

I NEVER DREAMED THAT I'D FALL IN LOVE WITH THAT GHOST...

BEYOND MY TOUCH 3

WHAT'S GOING ON, MIZUNO? YOU'RE UP EARLY
G. MORNING
WOW
DO YOU WANT A RAIN STORM OR WHAT?
AH HA HA HA
YOU'RE UP BEFORE I COULD WAKE YOU UP
OR, MAYBE, YOU GOT UP EARLY BECAUSE YOU COULDN'T WAIT TO SEE MY FACE?
GEEZ I'LL BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO KISS YOU
UHH
HEY?!
...
...

MIZUNO HAS...
...FALLEN FOR THE GHOST
BECAUSE OF MAMORU'S PERSISTENCE
I USUALLY SLEEP REALLY WELL,
BUT I COULDN'T FALL ASLEEP
I'M USUALLY IN A FOUL MOOD WHEN I WAKE UP TOO
IT'S WEIRD
HEY!
...
IT'S ODD
THAT'S SUPPOSED TO...
HAPPEN, BUT

すた
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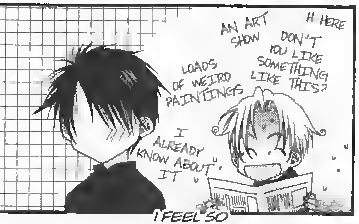
すた
IT-
IT'LL BE FUN GREAT WEATHER AND ALL
B-BUT I LIKE THE QUICK RAIN, TOO.
YOU KNOW I CAN SMELL THE RAIN
HEY, WHAT ABOUT YOU? WHICH DO YOU LIKE?
EAT SOME WATERMELON AND WRITE SOMETHING IN THE JOURNAL...
ANYTHING'S OKAY
CLICK
A DAY LIKE THIS IS MADE FOR A SWIM AND A NAP, RIGHT?
UGGGH
H-HEY
MIZU...
...NO

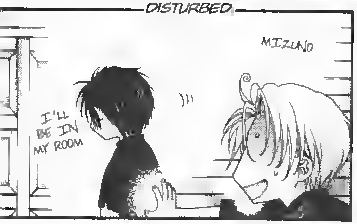
RUSH
C'MON
I WAS JUST JOKING IT'S A JOKE!!
AH, I HAVEN'T FIXED BREAKFAST YET JUST WAIT A BIT.
HEY
I DON'T WANT ANY
TURN
TOT
MI-
MIZUNO?!
UHH
IT- IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S GONNA BE HOT AGAIN TODAY
UHH- UHH--
TH-THE LAUNDRY!! WANT ME TO GET IT DONE FOR YOU? IT'LL DRY DARN FAST.

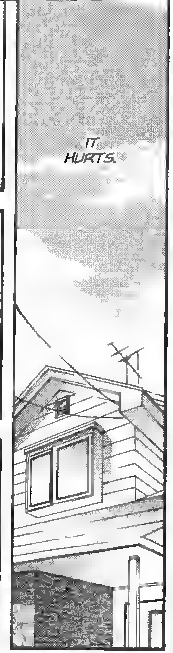
WHAT?! WHAT'S THIS?! WHAT IS THIS?!
HUFF
HUFF
THUMP THUMP THUMP THUMP
GRAB
GRIP
MAYBE...
DOES HE...
I'M...
SICK OR SOMETHING?!
...HATE ME?!
NEITHER OF THEM REALIZES THE TRUTH.

MIZU--
BANG
...
COOLING DOWN
FLINCH

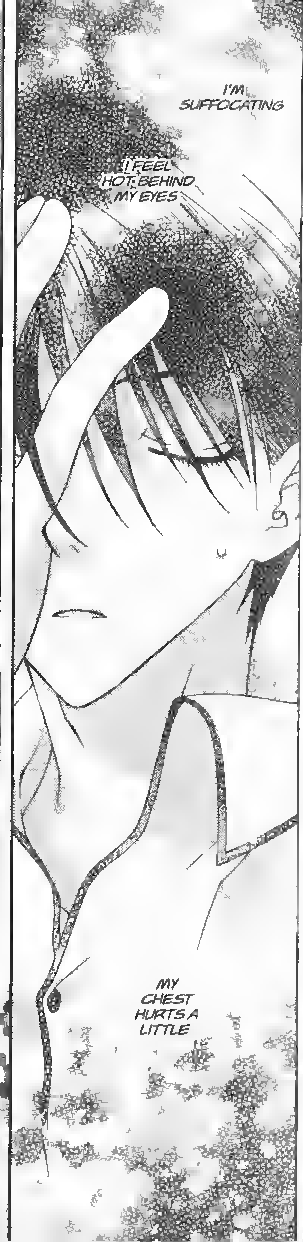
I COOKED IT PERFECTLY TODAY
IT'S NOT BURNT LOOK
HERE MIZUNO
I'M NOT HUNGRY


AN ART SHOW
HI HERE
DON'T YOU LIKE SOMETHING LIKE THIS?
LOADS OF WEIRD PAINTINGS
I ALREADY KNOW ABOUT IT


I FEEL SO DISTURBED
MIZUNO
I'LL BE IN MY ROOM


IT HURTS.

AND, I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.
...


I'M SUFFOCATING
I FEEL HOT BEHIND MY EYES
MY CHEST HURTS A LITTLE

WAAAAHHH!!
FIDGET
じたばた
A PERFECT MATCH
WHAT IS THIS?!
WHY? HOW COME?!
MY HEARTBEAT IS TOO LOUD!!!
WHY? DID I DO SOMETHING?

HAAA
...

WHAT'S GOING ON?
SINCE YESTERDAY, I'VE FELT...
REALLY
WEIRD

RUB
RUB
RUB

WHY?
WHY DOESN'T HE LOOK ME IN THE EYES? WHAT'S HE ANGRY AT? WHAT DID I DO?
I CAN'T THINK OF WHY...

WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?

おぉぉぉ
BUT...
NO WAY! HE CAN'T HAVE FOUND OUT THAT I PEEKED ONCE WHEN HE WAS TAKING A BATH.
NO!!! IT WAS THERE TO HAND CHEM THE TOWEL THAT'S ALL

OR MAYBE
HE NOTICED I SECRETLY WATCH HIM SLEEP
CAUSE HE'S SO CUTE RIGHT
WHEN ALL I DO IS LOOK AND WATCH
BUT IF I TELL HIM, HE'LL BE SCARE TO MAKE ME STOP

HUH
MAYBE BECAUSE I WAS LOOKING AT HIM WITH DIRTY THOUGHTS WHEN HE WAS CHANGING HIS CLOTHES...?
BUT HE TAKES OFF HIS CLOTHES SO FREELY
IT'S MY LOSS IF I DON'T LOOK

URGH MY STOMACH.
BUT I'M A GHOST
キリ
SHAKE PAIN

IT'S JUST THAT... HE MUST STILL BE UNDER THE WEATHER.
HE STAYED IN BED TWO DAYS AGO, RIGHT?
YEAH!! I SHOULD FIX SOMETHING YUMMY AND NUTRITIOUS ALL RIGHT!
THE FEEL!!
NO
NO, NO, NO, NO
TOO MANY REASONS

WH-WHAT?
AH... IT'S COMING BACK.
MY CHEST...
THUMP
!
SORRY UHH...
I KNOCKED, BUT YOU DIDN'T ANSWER...
I WONDERED WHY...
...THE MOMENT I SEE HIS FACE?
WHY...
...DO I FEEL THIS WAY...
WELL UHH...
YOU WERE ACTING STRANGE TODAY...
ARE YOU UPSET ABOUT SOMETHING?
IF I DID SOMETHING, I'M SORRY.
THE MOMENT I HEAR HIS VOICE...
IT-
IT'S NOTHING.
NOTHING AT ALL.
MIZUNO

NOT THAT IT MATTERS...
AFTER ALL, WITH THIS STRANGE ILLNESS OR WHATEVER IT IS, I CAN'T STUDY ANYWAY.
I ENDED UP SKIPPING SCHOOL TODAY...
SIGH...
BUT...
TAKAYAMA
WHAT? WHAT WAS THAT?
MIZUNO
I WONDER...
I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM SINCE NOON.
...WHAT HE'S UP TO
HMM...

FLUSH?
DON'T HATE ME
WHAT?
UPSET?
ABOUT WHAT?
I'M SORRY
SO PLEASE
WHAT RE YOU DOING?
MIZUNO
LET GO OF ME!!
BAM
MY HEARTBEAT
LET GO
LISTEN, I-
I-
HE LL HEAR
AH...
SORRY

...THE MOMENT I SAW HIS FACE CONTORT IN ANGUISH.
MY HEART STOPPED THROBBING
AH. SHE LOST I'M HEART
BUT IT DOESN'T MAKE ME FEEL ANY BETTER
I WONDER WHY, BUT IT HURTS
IN FACT...
MUCH MORE THAN BEFORE

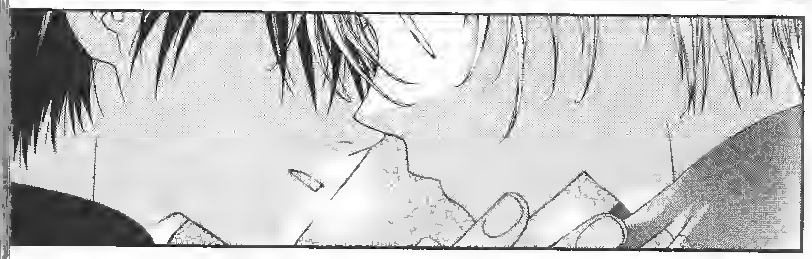
I'M SORRY
OH, WELL.
I'M SO INSENSITIVE
HA HA...
WAIT—
SHIFT
THAT'S NOT—
!
TAKAYAMA!

MIZUNO
UHH... I--
THAT'S NOT IT. I'M NOT UPSET OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT.
I--
A LOT MORE...
BANG!!
TAKAYAMA!!
JOLT
WHAT'S THAT?
YOU'RE _?

I WON'T
BE ABLE TO SEE HIM AGAIN?
SHE SAID A DAY LIKE THAT COMES EVERY SEVEN DAYS AFTER DYING
TO THINK OF IT, IT'S MY 49TH DAY AFTER DEATH.
HE'LL DISAPPEAR...?
SEVEN DAYS PASSED SEVEN TIMES I GUESS THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS
NO WAY—
BESIDES SOMEHOW...
I FEEL IVE LOST ENERGY I FEEL IT'S OKAY NOW
NO
BUT YOU REALLY...
...WERE THE ONLY REGRET I HAD.
THANKS FOR EVERYTHING
IT'S BEEN LIKE THIS SINCE THIS MORNING
UHH MAYBE MY TIME'S UP?
AHHHH...
HA HA
WHAT— BUT YOU
WELL
MY GRANNY ONCE TOLD ME... THAT THERE'S A DAY WHEN THE DESTINATION FOR THE DEAD IS DECIDED
NO MATTER HOW MANY REGRETS ONE MAY HAVE,
WHEN THAT MOMENT COMES...
...ONE MUST DEPART THIS WORLD...

I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND
MY HEAD'S TOTALLY CONFUSED AND I CAN'T THINK CLEARLY
MIZUNO...
WHEN YOU'RE AROUND, I'M...
IF YOU ARE GONE, I...
...NOT LIKE THAT
I'LL TURN BACK TO THE GHOST-LIKE PERSON I WAS BEFORE...
BUT YOU ALONE...
EVEN IF YOU MAKE ME NERVOUS AND IRRITATED AND HURT...
I CAN'T HELP THINKING ABOUT YOU
EVEN IF YOU MAKE ME UPSET...
DON'T BE CONTENT AND DISAPPEAR LEAVING ME LIKE THIS!

NO WAY..!!
...LOVE...
MAYBE ALL I TRULY WANTED WAS FOR YOU TO KNOW...
...WHAT I COULDN'T TELL YOU WHILE I WAS STILL ALIVE I THINK I TRULY...
YOU...
NO
DON'T!
DON'T VANISH...!



BECAUSE I LOVE HIM.

AHH.

BUT OF COURSE.

THAT'S IT.

I LOVE

YOU.

THAT'S WHY—

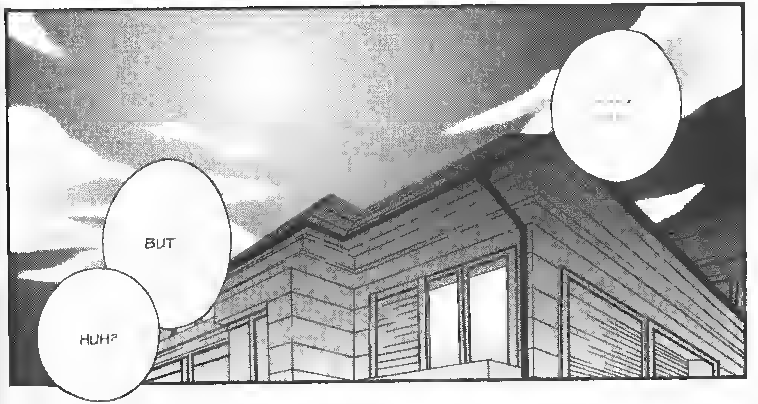
TAKA--
I'M SO GLAD
GEEZ!
WHAT WAS THAT?! YOU!!
NO MATTER WHAT
WHAT A FOOL!!
YOUR BODY'S GETTING MORE DISTINCT...?
GEEZ
I THOUGHT YOU DISLIKED ME
HEY
IF YOU DISLIKED ME, IT'S ONE THING,
BUT IF YOU'RE ASKING ME TO STAY, HOW CAN I GO?
I CHANGED MY MIND REST IN PEACE? WHAT'S THAT FOR?

MADE VISIBLE BY HIS SMILE.
MY INVISIBLE FEELING IS...
NO MATTER WHAT
TAKAYAMA,
EVEN IF HE DISAPPEARS
IT WON'T BE ERASED

SO LONG AS THERE IS...
WHAT'S THAT ODD LOOK?
NOTHING
A FEELING THAT'S ALIVE INSIDE ME.
EVEN IF I'M LIKE A GHOST MYSELF
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I SAW YOU SMILE
REALLY?
YUP
HE, THE GHOST, KEEPS ME ALIVE
IT MIGHT'VE ALREADY BEEN DECIDED THAT I'M GOING TO HEAVEN
FORTY-NINE DAYS IS JUST A CYCLE
THE DAY OF DECISION IS SUPPOSED TO COME MANY TIMES MORE BESIDES
TO ME, BEING WITH YOU IS LIKE BEING IN HEAVEN
AS HIS HEART BEATS...
I CAN'T DISAPPEAR, BECAUSE I'VE GOT TOO MANY REGRETS.
IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT.
HIS HEART IS THUMPING
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
HE'S NOT FADING AWAY

THE LAST ONE COMES ...
HOW LONG DO YOU THINK?
THERE MUST BE A LIMIT. I MEAN, THE LENGTH OF TIME YOU CAN STAY HERE
ARE YOU WORRIED?
YEAH
ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY, YOU KNOW?
I'M PRETTY IGNORANT ABOUT THINGS LIKE THAT
WE HAD THE FINAL HOJI MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR MY GREAT GRANDMOTHER A YEAR AGO
SEVEN YEARS... NO, THIRTEEN YEARS? THERE'S A SERVICE ON 13TH YEAR, RIGHT?
UH... IN TERMS OF THE HOJI MEMORIAL OBSERVANCE

I AM NOT...
...A GHOST


BUT
HUH?

FIFTY YEARS!!
LET'S ENJOY EACH OTHER'S COMPANY!!

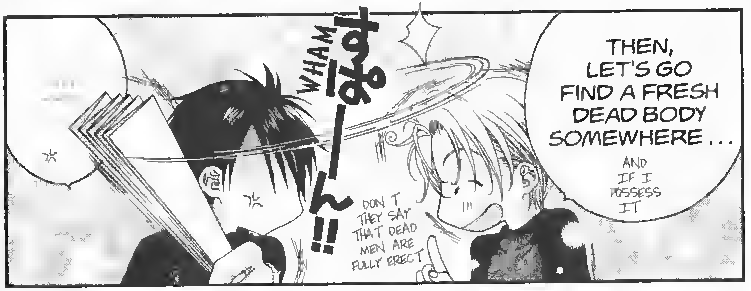
WITH YOUR BODY THAT CAN'T EVEN FIX THE EGG PROPERLY?
HEH, HEH, HEH, HEH
AND ONCE WE GET MORE INTIMATE, WE CAN DO THIS AND-THAT! ♡
OH, YEAH!

FIFTY YEARS FROM NOW THAT MEANS... YOU'LL BE SIXTY-FIVE OR SIXTY-SIX.
DARN IT
YOU...
I WONDER WHAT KIND'A GEEZER YOU'RE GONNA BE?
A PERFECT CRIME, ISN'T IT?!

SO, FOR THE NEXT
DON'T WORRY EVEN IF YOU LOSE YOUR HAIR, AND YOUR STOMACH POKES OUT, SO LONG AS THERE'S LOVE... ♡

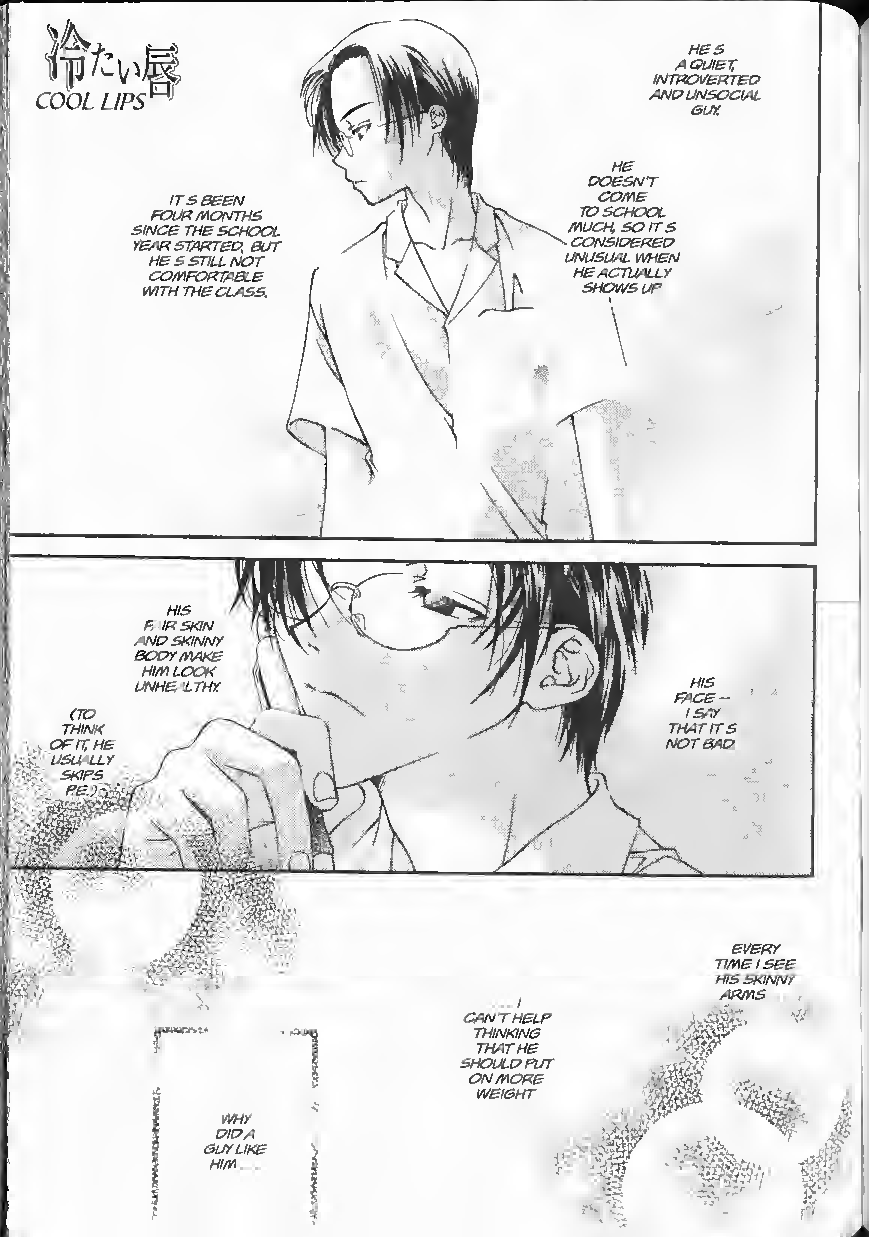
BEYOND MY TOUCH
WHAT HAPPENED THEREAFTER.

ギフト
GIFT



I HOPE YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SAY, "I'LL USE MY BODY THE BEST I CAN TO SERVE YOU" -- LIKE SOMEONE WITHOUT ANY CREATIVITY
AND I REALLY HOPE IT'S NOT SEX-RELATED
'CAUSE I'M A GHOST, RIGHT?
WHAT I CAN DO FOR YOU IS LIMITED, RIGHT? SO
I DON'T GET IT
YOU MORON, MIZUNO!
I DON'T REALLY... CARE TO GET ANYTHING PARTICULAR
SUNNY-SIDE UP ISN'T CALLED SPECIAL -- EVEN IF IT'S NOT BURNT
IT'S NOT LIKE THE 1920S OR 30S
YOU'RE ELOQUENT EVERY NOW AND THEN
IT'LL BE A SPECIAL DINNER TONIGHT
AH,
PLEASE DON'T MAKE TOO MUCH OF A MESS IN THE KITCHEN.
RUSH
IT'S- IT'S NOT GONNA BE SUNNY-SIDE UP!!
DASH

WHAT
DO YOU WANT?
EVEN A GHOST WANTS A GIFT?
THIS HOUSE HAS A JAPANESE TORCH
YOU IDIOT! I'M TALKING ABOUT YOUR BIRTHDAY
YOU... I KNOW YOU'VE GOT FAMILY PROBLEMS, BUT YOU'RE TOO STRANGE -- EVEN FOR A HUMAN
I MEAN IT
IS IT?
TO THINK OF IT IT MIGHT BE TODAY...
LEAVE ME ALONE
SO?
WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO GIVE ME?
HEH HEH
YOU KNOW


HE'S A QUIET, INTROVERTED AND UNSOCIAL GUY.
HE DOESN'T COME TO SCHOOL MUCH, SO IT'S CONSIDERED UNUSUAL WHEN HE ACTUALLY SHOWS UP.
IT'S BEEN FOUR MONTHS SINCE THE SCHOOL YEAR STARTED, BUT HE'S STILL NOT COMFORTABLE WITH THE CLASS.
HIS FAIR SKIN AND SKINNY BODY MAKE HIM LOOK UNHEALTHY.
(TO THINK OF IT, HE USUALLY SKIPS P.E.)...
HIS FACE — I SAY THAT IT'S NOT BAD.
EVERY TIME I SEE HIS SKINNY ARMS...
I CAN'T HELP THINKING THAT HE SHOULD PUT ON MORE WEIGHT.
WHY DID A GUY LIKE HIM...

BECAUSE I'VE ALREADY GOTTEN IT.
SOMETHING BIG, SOFT AND WARM.
OH, WELL.
I DON'T WANT TO SAY SOMETHING CLICHÉ — LIKE IN EVERY SHOUJO MANGA...
LIKE IRRITATION AND ANNOYANCE AND WHAT IT MEANS TO BE PATIENT.
ROLLED OMELET?
BESIDES, I GET OTHER THINGS, TOO...
THAT'S ALSO A SIGN OF THEIR INTIMACY.
YES, IT'S TASTY.
YUMMY?
HEY?
IS IT YUMMY?

GIFT*END

AN IDIOTIC THING LIKE...
HIS GLASSES.
THEY DON'T GET IN THE WAY OF KISSING AS MUCH AS THEY SAY-- THAT'S ALL.
冷たい唇
つめたいくちびる
COOL LIPS

WHAT I THOUGHT OF, AT THAT VERY MOMENT, WAS...
DO THAT SORT OF THING ALL OF A SUDDEN?

THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.
NATSUO OZUKI WENT HOME RIGHT AFTER THE CEREMONY.
...HE HAD TO INTRODUCE HIMSELF TO EVERYONE, ALONE.
THAT'S WHY
ON THE BLACKBOARD, IN SILENCE, HE WROTE HIS FULL NAME,
HIS BLOOD TYPE, AND WHAT HIS BLOOD IS MADE UP OF IN DETAIL.
THEN, WITHOUT EVEN A SMILE...
OR A WORD, HE RETURNED TO HIS SEAT.
ガヤ... CHATTER
A WEIRD GUY
A WEIRD GUY
BUT YOU KNOW--
TODA!
IT'S YOUR TURN TO PICK UP THE STUDY MATERIAL
UGGGH!
NO WAY! I DON'T WANNA DO THAT
TODA-CHAN!
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
UHH YEAH
WHAT A STRANGE GUY
HEY, HASHIBA.
HMM?
THE VERY...
...LAST SEAT, HUH?
PRETTY FAR BACK
THAT WAS THE LAST TIME HE ATTRACTED ANYONE'S ATTENTION.
...I THINK HE MIGHT BE INTERESTING.
A WEIRD GUY.
HAHAHA
YOU KNOW

TO BE HONEST...
HUH?
WAS HE LOOKING AT ME?
WHAT'S WRONG, HASHIBA?
BLINK
THAT'S WHY--
I WAS SHOCKED WHEN HE FIRST SPOKE TO ME.
YOU LIVE IN THAT GREEN APARTMENT ACROSS FROM THE RAILROAD CROSSING, DON'T YOU?

I SAT FAR AWAY FROM HIM. I ALMOST FORGOT HE WAS THERE.
PARTLY BECAUSE
AFTER THAT, HE WAS LIKE A MOUSE, SO NO ONE TOOK NOTICE OF HIM

I'M STARVING!
I GUESS I SHOULD IGNORE THESE MINOR DETAILS
SURE
WANNA STOP SOMEWHERE AND GRAB A SNACK?
HE WAS ALREADY INTENDING TO DO THAT
WHAT A SERIOUS SORTA GUY
IF HE DOESN'T ASK WHAT THAT MEANT
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH MY FINGER HERE
YEAH SUMMER VACATION
BUT WE HAVE EXTRA CURRICULAR SESSIONS EVERY DAY
FINALS GRADE RESULTS
300
I NEVER GO TO P.E
SO I'VE GOTTA MAKE UP FOR IT
WHY DO YOU GET GOOD GRADES WHEN YOU HARDLY SHOW UP AT SCHOOL?
IT'S NOT FAIR
A CELL PHONE?
YEAH JUNIOR HIGH KIDS USE THEM TOO NOWADAYS
WHY DON'T YOU GET ONE?
THIS ONE'S PRETTY INEXPENSIVE
I DON'T KNOW THE DIFFERENCE
I LIKE THE HIROSHIMA-STYLE ONES
I LIKE OCTOPUS BALLS, BUT OKONOMIYAKI PANCAKES ARE GOOD TOO
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
HASHIBA
YOU ALWAYS SEEM HAPPY
SWEETENING
RUSTLE
ガサ

OH, IS THAT RIGHT? YOU LIVE CLOSE-BY, THEN
I DIDN'T KNOW THAT
IT'S STRANGE THAT I'VE NEVER HEARD HIS VOICE BEFORE
I THINK THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME I EVER HEARD HIM TALK
I SAW YOU GO IN THE OTHER DAY
MY PLACE IS IN THE RESIDENTIAL AREA, JUST A BIT FURTHER FROM YOURS
HIS VOICE.
SO THAT'S HOW HE SOUNDS?
WHAT?!
UHH...
Y-YEAH
I'LL JOIN A RESPECTABLE, THIRD RATE CORPORATION, AND
DO YOU WANT TO
GO HOME WITH ME TODAY?
SO, YOU LIVE IN A HOUSE, NOT AN APARTMENT?
I'M JEALOUS MY PLACE IS SO SMALL
IT MUST BE GREAT TO LIVE IN A HOUSE! IT'S A REAL HOME, ISN'T IT?
THE NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOR'S NOISY, AND IT'S OLD AND ALL

I THINK IT'S FINE THE WAY YOU ARE, OZUKI
BUT IT'D BE EVEN BETTER IF YOU DIDN'T SKIP SCHOOL ALL THE TIME
AFTER ALL, THE FIRST SEMESTER JUST ENDED YOU SKIPPED SCHOOL A LOT
BUT YOU SHOULDN'T STRESS TOO MUCH.
BESIDES, BEING A GOOD TALKER DOESN'T NECESSARILY MAKE ANYONE HAPPY
PEOPLE ARE ALL DIFFERENT
I'M SURE YOU'LL MAKE MORE FRIENDS
LIKE WE DID
I SEE
AS FAR AS YOU'RE CONCERNED, WE'RE ALREADY FRIENDS
WHAT?
WAIT A SEC YOU MEAN, YOU DON'T THINK SO?
BUT WE ARE OTHERWISE, WHY DO WE BOTHER HANGING OUT?!
YOU MEAN, I SEEM LIKE AN IDIOT?
NO, I DON'T MEAN THAT
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SAY IT, BUT I BET YOU KNOW HOW TO ENJOY YOURSELF
OF COURSE IT'S ALWAYS BETTER TO HAVE A GOOD TIME
THE ONES WHO LAUGH WIN IN LIFE! YOU KNOW
YUP YOU'RE RIGHT
THAT'S WHY
I ENVY YOU
THAT'S SOMETHING I CAN'T DO I DON'T ENJOY GROUP ACTIVITIES
I'M NOT EVEN TALKATIVE
IT'S TRUE, YOU'RE SORT OF OUT OF IT, BUT

... HOW MUCH YOU WERE ENJOYING YOURSELF, AND I BEGAN TO FEEL JEALOUS.
I WONDERED WHAT MADE YOU LAUGH LIKE THAT
THAT MADE ME WANT TO TALK TO YOU
...GO HOME TOGETHER TODAY?
WANT TO...
AND I DID
SURE
IT ACTUALLY REQUIRED A LOT OF COURAGE BUT
...YOU ACTED AS IF IT WAS NOTHING

THE WAY YOU LAUGHED MADE ME WONDER WHAT'S SO FUNNY
..... TOO LOUD
IT USED TO ANNOY ME, AS A MATTER OF FACT.
AT FIRST
I THOUGHT YOU WERE ALWAYS TOO LOUD
I TRIED TO AVOID YOU.
BUT YOU WERE ALWAYS IN THE MIDDLE OF EVERYTHING. I COULDN'T AVOID SEEING AND HEARING YOU.
I TRIED TO BLOCK YOU OUT... BUT I COULDN'T HELP NOTICING...
YUP.
REALLY?
SHOCK ガーん
ONLY AT FIRST, I SAID
AND THEN
I DIDN'T KNOW...

I DON'T EVER THINK THAT WAY. I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING
TO THINK OF IT, I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT YOU.
.....
.....
.....
WOULDN'T BE TALKING TO ME LIKE THIS IF YOU HATED ME, RIGHT?
BUT I KNOW I DON'T DISLIKE YOU
YOU
WOULDN'T THAT BE ENOUGH?

IT MADE ME WONDER...
WHY ARE WE SO DIFFERENT... EVEN THOUGH WE'RE BOTH HUMAN BEINGS?
THAT MADE ME HATE YOU
BUT I DON'T FEEL THAT WAY NOW
I THINK I DON'T FEEL THAT WAY, BUT,
TO BE HONEST...
I ACTUALLY DON'T REALLY KNOW HOW I FEEL

GAAHH
I SHOULD'VE PUNCHED HIM WITH MY FIST
I THOUGHT OF THAT THREE DAYS LATER.
WHAM
HE DIDN'T SHOW UP AGAIN TODAY.
OR YESTERDAY. OR THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY.
THAT IDIOT!

EVEN IF YOU CAN'T BE SURE
...FRIENDS?
OZUKI
IF YOU DON'T MIND HANGING OUT TOGETHER, DOESN'T THAT MAKE US ...

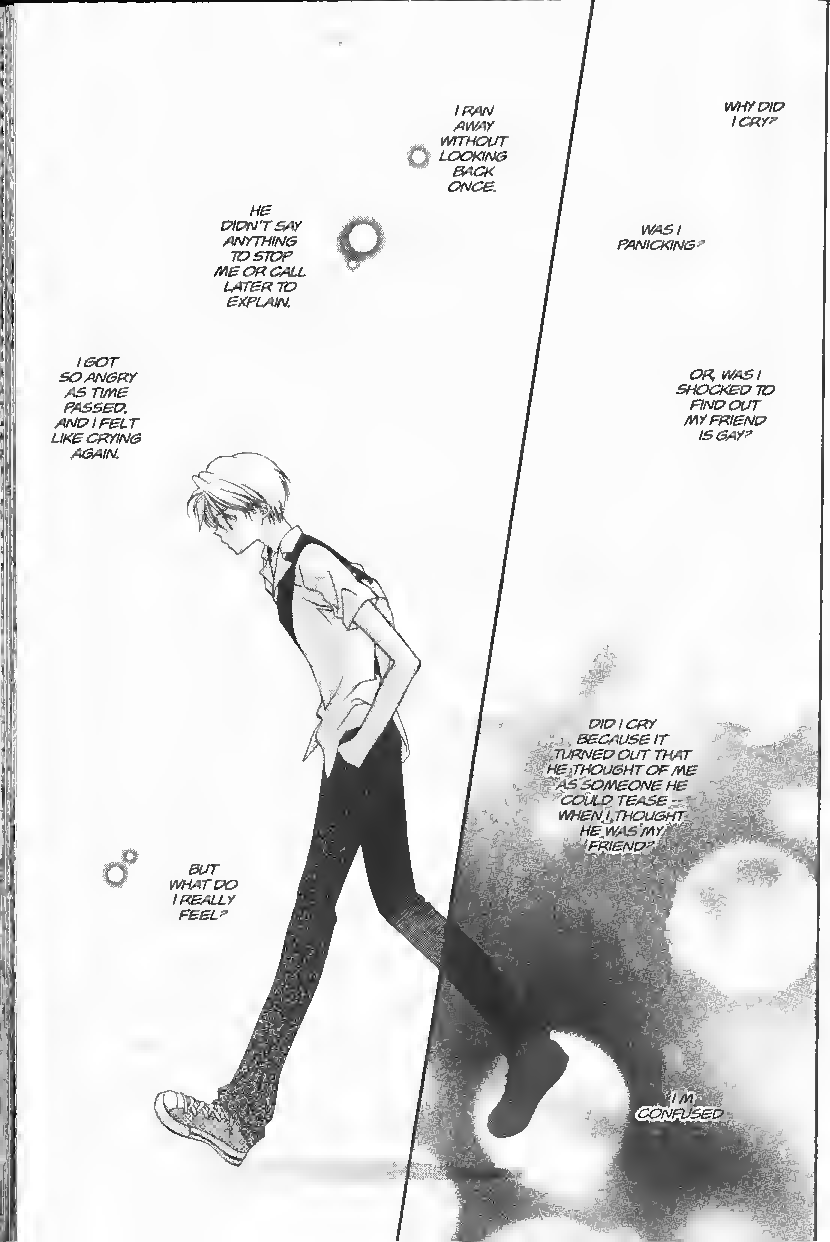
IS THAT THE END OF IT.....?
THEN WHAT?
AFTER I PUNCH HIM A COUPLE OF TIMES.
AND AFTER I BITCH AND SWEAR AT HIM.
AND THEN...
NEXT TIME I SEE HIM, I'M GONNA PUNCH HIM A COUPLE MORE TIMES.
I'M GONNA SAY EVERY CRUEL THING I CAN THINK OF
AND THEN...
AND THEN
IT WAS WITH MY OPEN PALM
I CAN'T GET RID OF THOSE BAD FEELING BY SLAPPING HIM JUST ONCE.
HE RAN AWAY.
CAN WE GO BACK THE WAY WE WERE -- AS IF NOTHING HAPPENED?
TERMINATING OUR RELATIONSHIP?
WILL THAT BE POSSIBLE?
THEN, WHAT ABOUT IGNORING HIM COMPLETELY?
WHAT AM I GONNA DO AFTER THAT?

I GOT IT
UNLESS I SEE HIM, NO MATTER WHAT I THINK, IT'S NOT GONNA GET RESOLVED
I SHOULD FORGET ABOUT HIM FOR NOW.
ENJOY MYSELF
I SHOULD FOCUS ON SOMETHING ELSE.
HUH?

... CAN I DO IT? DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
HASHIBA
A FRIENDSHIP THAT EXISTED ONLY FOR A FEW MONTHS
BUT...
IT'S BAD HAVE I BEEN LOOKING DEPRESSED?
DON'T BE A MORON I DON'T GOT ANY EXTRA MONEY
CAN'T EVEN GET A SUMMER JOB
I CAN'T COME TO SCHOOL EVERY DAY LIKE THIS IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE SUMMER VACATION, FOR GOD'S SAKE
EVEN THOUGH IT'S JUST A HALF
IF YOU'RE BORED WANNA GRAB SOMETHING TO EAT?
IT'S FUN TO DO THINGS TOGETHER SOMETIMES
EVEN THOUGH WE'VE GOT NO CHOICE
OH, THAT SOUNDS GREAT WHO'S TREATING?
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU LOOK SERIOUS
IT DOESN'T SUIT YOU
SHUT UP

WHEN'S HIS BIRTHDAY? SOMETIME IN SUMMER, I THINK.
AM I A FOOL?
TO THINK OF IT, I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM ANGRY.
NEVER EVEN SEEN HIM LAUGH
TO TEASE HIM, I'LL GET A CUTE ONE.
I WONDER WHAT HE'LL DO WILL HE GET UPSET?
PSHH
TO THINK OF IT, HE DOESN'T HAVE ONE
I SHOULD PICK UP ONE FOR HIM.
*HE SAID IT BOTHERED HIM OR SOMETHING
EXCUSE ME, BUT PLEASE DON'T
I'M SO SORRY
がっしゃん
WHAT'S GOING ON?
?!
ぴたん
WHAT'S THIS FEELING?
WHAT'S THIS?
IT'S FUN
BUT..
A STRAP, HUH?
IT'S CUTE
MAYBE I SHOULD REPLACE MINE
BUT..

I'M SORRY
I JUST REMEMBERED I FORGOT SOMETHING!!
WHAT?
WHY DO I FEEL...
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M FORGIVING HIM.
I'M STILL..
...SO GUILTY?
ANGRY, BUT
IT'S FUN TO HANG OUT WITH THE GANG, BUT
IT'S SOMETHING I DO WHETHER HE'S AROUND OR NOT, BUT
BUT...
THAT'S IT IT'S NO FUN
WELL, IT'S FUN, BUT...
I'M SO ANGRY AT HIM, BUT...
I CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT HIM! SO IDIOTIC
AH WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO NOW?
AH ME TOO
I WANNA HAVE SOME SHAVED ICE
IT'S NO FUN.
IT'S NOT AT ALL.
A BAD THING TO DO, BUT...
HASHIBA?
WHAT'RE YOU DOING? C'MON, LET'S GO.
TSUKU
THAT'S SOMETHING... I DO ALL THE TIME, BUT--
HANG OUT AND LAUGH WHEN HE'S NOT AROUND
THAT'S SOMETHING...


I RAN AWAY WITHOUT LOOKING BACK ONCE.
WHY DID I CRY?
HE DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING TO STOP ME OR CALL LATER TO EXPLAIN.
WAS I PANICKING?
I GOT SO ANGRY AS TIME PASSED, AND I FELT LIKE CRYING AGAIN.
OR, WAS I SHOCKED TO FIND OUT MY FRIEND IS GAY?
DID I CRY BECAUSE IT TURNED OUT THAT HE THOUGHT OF ME AS SOMEONE HE COULD TEASE -- WHEN I THOUGHT HE WAS MY FRIEND?
BUT WHAT DO I REALLY FEEL?
I'M CONFUSED

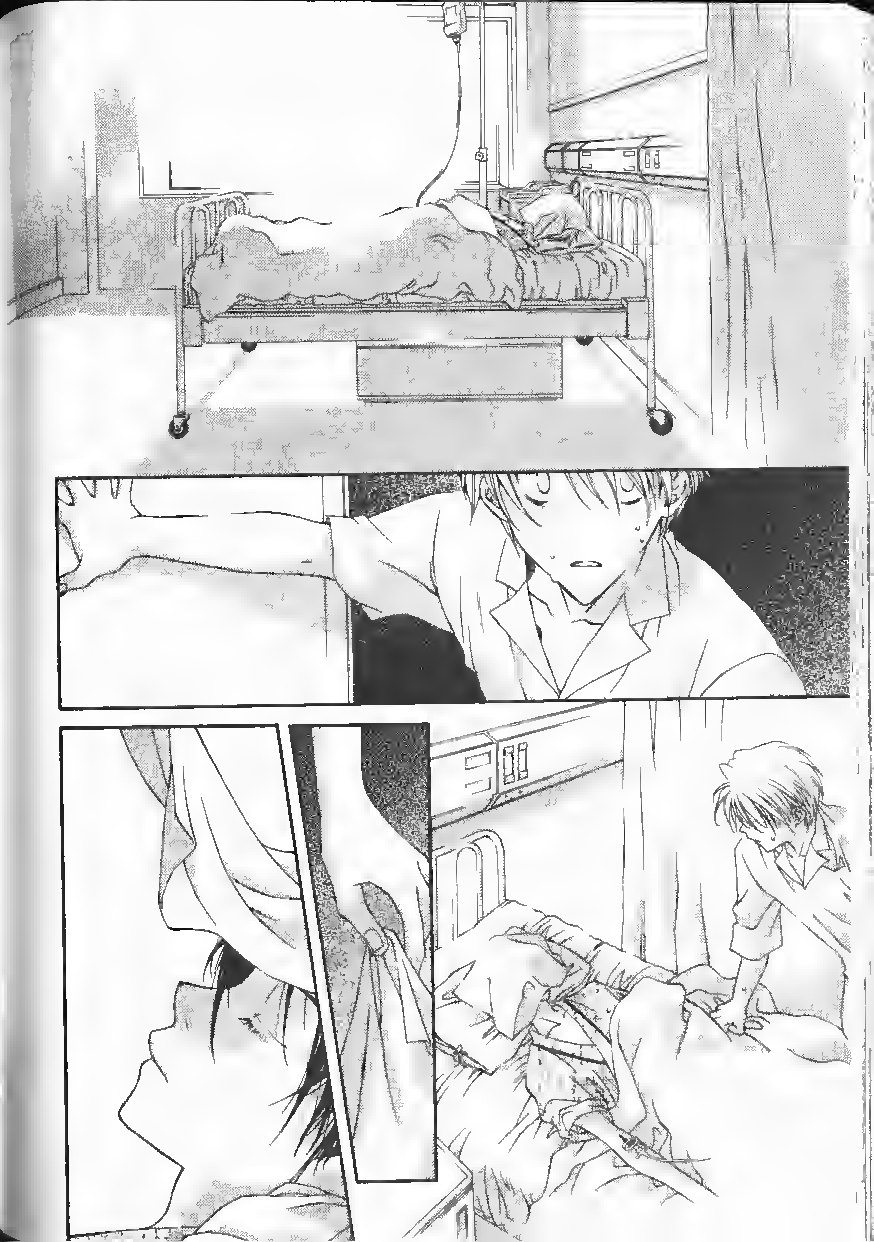
I THINK I'M STILL ANGRY, BUT
I JUST WANT TO SEE HIM AND TALK TO HIM.
はぁ〜
WHAM
DROP
DRIP
DROP
....

...HE WAS HOSPITALIZED SEVERAL DAYS AGO
THE FACT IS...
I WAS ASKED NOT TO TELL ANYONE, BUT...
TO THINK OF IT, YOU'RE HIS CLOSE FRIEND, AREN'T YOU? WHY DON'T YOU CHECK UP ON HIM?
HE HAS A HEALTH PROBLEM, HE SKIPS P.E., RIGHT?
HE HAD TO GRADUATE LATE, TOO.
IT'S GOTTA BE A JOKE.
APPARENTLY...
...HE CAME TO SCHOOL WHEN HE SHOULDN'T HAVE.
213
小月
OZUKI
A HORRIBLE, HORRIBLE JOKE!!
WHAT THE HECK? HE DIDN'T TELL ME THAT
HE'S SERIOUSLY ILL? IS IT A JOKE?
I'VE HAD ENOUGH!!
I'M STILL...
...UPSET!!

TEACHER'S ROOM
...ANGRY AT HIM?
SENSEI!
YOU'VE GOT THE ADDRESS BOOK FOR THE CLASS, RIGHT?
AM I REALLY...
OH, YOU KNOW ABOUT HIM?
HUH?
THAT'S STRANGE. NO ONE'S SUPPOSED TO KNOW.
I MEAN, ABOUT OZUKI
OH, HASHIBA, YOU'RE STILL HERE?
WILL YOU TELL ME WHERE OZUKI LIVES?
WOW. WHY ARE YOU SO UPSET?
OZUKI?

CITY GENERAL HOSPITAL
WHAT?

MORON.....
HE'S ... JUST TEASING ME AGAIN ... RIGHT?
WHAT ... IS THIS?!
FORGIVEN YOU YET.....!
.....HAVEN'T.....
GRIP
YOU, MORON ...
I...
.....AND APOLOGIZE.
OTHERWISE, I...
YOU HAVEN'T TOLD ME ANYTHING YET
YOU HAVEN'T TOLD ME
OPEN.....
.....YOUR EYES.....



?
WHAT'RE YOU SAYING?
OF COURSE, I'M ALIVE
WHOAH!
あ?!
OZUKI!!?!
YOU'RE STILL ALIVE?!
HUH?
I FEEL TOO LOUSY TO GET UP RIGHT NOW I KNEW IT MIGHT BE TAKEN WRONG
DIDN'T YOU THINK THEY'D STOP GIVING IV TO A DEAD PERSON?
THEY WOULDN'T LEAVE A DEAD BODY ALONE IN THE LIFE OF ROOM
BESIDES, CAN'T YOU SEE THAT THERE'S NO FAMILY, NURSE OR DOCTOR AROUND?
B-BUT THIS WAS ON YOUR FACE
AHHH.
IT'S TOO BRIGHT HERE, AND I COULDN'T REACH THE CURTAIN
HE WAS JUST ASLEEP

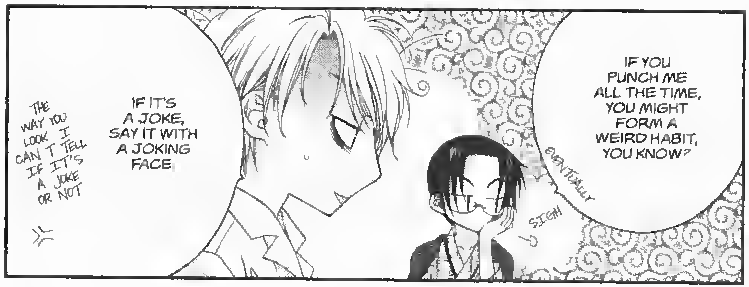
I AM.
STILL UPSET, OZUKI!!!
HUH?
HE HASN'T TOLD ME HOW HE REALLY FEELS.
I'M SORRY.
GET UP AND APOLOGIZE!!!

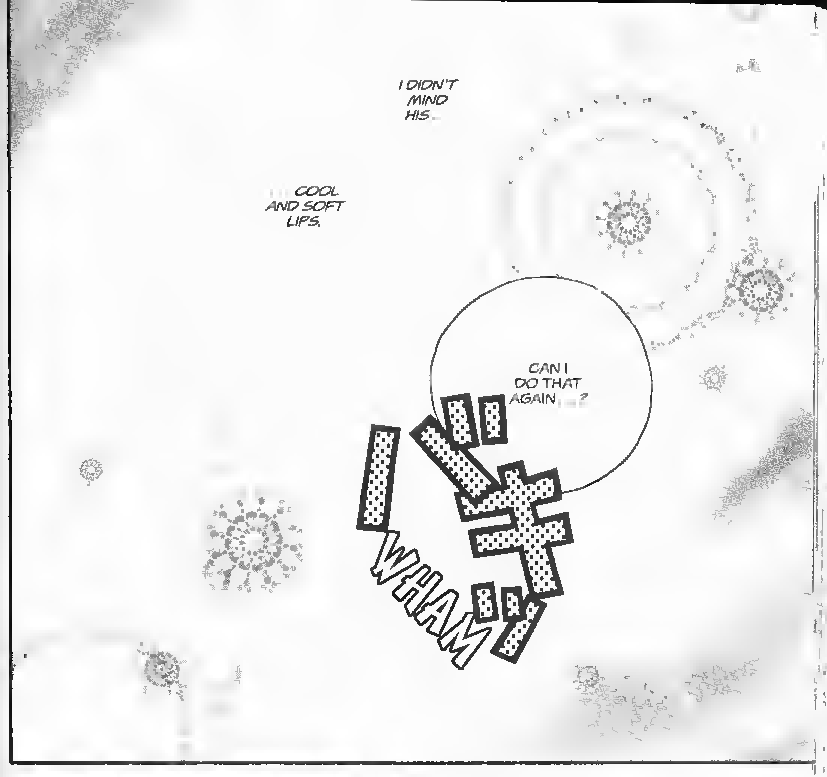
WHAT?!
BECAUSE I DIDN'T KNOW
I THOUGHT I'D KNOW IF I KISSED YOU
BECAUSE
...
...
YOU TOLD ME YOU DIDN'T KNOW HOW YOU FELT ABOUT ME
WHY DID YOU DO THAT?
BUT...
I WAS UPSET WHEN I HEARD YOU SAY...
...THAT YOU WERE MY FRIEND AND LAUGHED -- AS IF IT WAS NOTHING
...I THINK I WAS GLAD TO HEAR IT

ANEMIA
THAT'S WHAT I'M TOLD HE HAS.
OUCH
THE SOUND MADE BY A FIST
PUNCH
YOU'RE STILL ANGRY?
WHY?
WHAT?
WHY? DIDN'T YOU KISS ME OR WHAT?
I KEPT IT QUIET BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO BE TREATED DIFFERENTLY AT SCHOOL
BESIDES WHENEVER I TELL ANYONE I'M ANEMIC THEY STOP BEING FRIENDLY
IT'S NOT TYPICAL ANEMIA. MY BODY CAN'T PRODUCE BLOOD PROPERLY
IT USED TO BE A SERIOUS ILLNESS, BUT NOWADAYS, THERE ARE WAYS TO TREAT IT. BESIDES, MY PROBLEM ISN'T TOO SERIOUS
HASHIBA-KUN...

BESIDES...
IT'S BETTER THAN HAVING YOU DEAD FOR-REAL.
MY ANGER WENT AWAY IN A SECOND.
I'M...
A FOOL, TOO.
I WAS SO RELIEVED TO SEE YOU ALIVE.
I'M CONFUSED, TOO.
HASHIBA.
I WAS SURPRISED, SHOCKED, UPSET.
BUT...

HAVE YOU...
...FIGURED IT OUT IN THE END AFTER YOU DID IT?
NOPE
SO
DESERVES HIT BACK
UHH I DON'T REALLY CARE ANYMORE
YOU KNOW, IT JUST PROVES YOU'RE AMAZINGLY FOOLISH
REALLY?
BESIDES...
THAT'S WHY I APOLOGIZE
YOU...
はあ HAAA
YOU WON'T FORGIVE ME?
JUST AS MUCH AS I HATED YOU
YOUR WORDS MADE ME...
HAPPY


THE WAY YOU LOOK, I CAN'T TELL IF IT'S A JOKE OR NOT
IF IT'S A JOKE, SAY IT WITH A JOKING FACE.
IF YOU PUNCH ME ALL THE TIME, YOU MIGHT FORM A WEIRD HABIT, YOU KNOW?
EVENTUALLY
SIGH!



NOT GRANTED.
"DON'T BE AN OPPORTUNIST, PLEASE!!"
I'M A SICK PERSON, AFTER ALL
WILL YOU USE THE PALM OF YOUR HAND INSTEAD OF THE FIST, AT LEAST?

COOL LIPS ✱END

レシピ
RECIPE

HOW IS IT?!
IS IT YUMMY, MINORU?
MUNCH
WELL
IT'S GOOD
YUP
DON'T...
WHAT?
I CAN TELL BY YOUR LOOK
YOU'RE LYING
MUMBLE

I'LL FIX IT FOR YOU.
SO...
HOW...

HE TRANSFERRED FROM A TOP SCHOOL TO THIS THIRD RATE BOY'S SCHOOL
HE'S NOT JUST A WEIRD GUY WHAT'S REALLY WEIRD IS THAT'S THE REASON HE TRANSFERRED HERE
WHAT?
NO WAY!
THAT GUY, TAKASHI, IN THE GRAY JACKET, TRANSFERRED FROM ANOTHER SCHOOL.
AH... WE ESTABLISHED A FAN CLUB THAT TAKES CARE OF ANY LEFTOVERS
BUT IT'S NOT AN OFFICIAL CLUB
WOW I DON'T UNDERSTAND THE THINGS SMART GUYS DO.
BUT WHY ARE YOU EATING IT TOO?
REALLY? YOU MEAN, HE'S A WEIRD GUY, THEN
THEY SAY HE'S A CHILDHOOD FRIEND OF MINORU
I BET YOU DON'T LIKE BLACK COFFEE
I BET YOU'VE GOT A SWEET TOOTH
WRONG
YOU GOT THAT RIGHT
HE BAKES PRETTY TASTY STUFF, YOU KNOW
WANNA JOIN?
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS CHIP IN FOR THE INGREDIENTS
BUT, HE'S UPSET THAT MINORU WON'T SAY HIS HOMEMADE CAKE IS DELICIOUS
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY ABOUT TH...
THE CLUB WILL EXIST UNTIL
MINORU FALLS FOR TAKASHI'S SWEETS

NO, I DON'T THINK THAT!
CATCH
はし!!
YOU THINK IT TASTES BAD.
I KNOW YOU DO.
WHAT DON'T YOU LIKE ABOUT IT? THE SWEETNESS? THE CAKE? THE ICING?
いただきます LET'S EAT
YOU'RE ALREADY LIKE A PRO, TAKA-CHAN
THAT'S A LIE!
HMM
YOU DON'T LIKE WHITE PEACHES, DO YOU? YOU LIKE YELLOW ONES BETTER, RIGHT?
AH A CAKE? CAN I HAVE SOME?
NO, NO NO I MEAN IT YOU'RE BETTER THAN ANY BAKER
HUH?
I GOT IT!
WHAT? WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
N-NO, THAT'S NOT IT
...LIE TO ME!!!
DAHHHH!
なっ
THEN WHAT THE HECK'S WRONG WITH IT?!
IT'S AN EVERYDAY EVENT
GRAB
LICK LICK
WHAT?
A FIGHT?
HAH?

ANYHOW...
COUGH
ARE YOU CHALLENGING ME? IS THIS A CHALLENGE?
ANNOYED
ARE YOU SAYING YOU DON'T EXPECT MUCH FROM ME?
TH- IT'S NOT IT!!
I REALLY THINK IT'S TASTY.
SO, STOP MAKING THEM EVERY D-Y. IT'S TOO MUCH WORK, ISN'T IT?
....?
I'LL SURPRISE HIM.
OAMMIT!
THAT SCUM.

SUDDENLY
LISTEN
THE MOMENT SOMEONE THINKS IT TASTES GOOD
A SNACK
WHAT'S THAT?
I REALLY DON'T THINK IT TASTES BAD
YES, YOU DO
YOU GUYS, THAT'S WHY YOU CAN'T EVEN GET A GIRLFRIEND
SHOVE
A CAKE?
ANNOYED
YOU MEAN, YOU'RE A KID OR WHAT?
HA!
YOU MAY NOT SAY IT'S BAD, BUT YOU DON'T THINK IT'S DELICIOUS
THE FLOWERS BLOSSOM AT A FLOWERLESS BOYS SCHOOL!!
WHY ARE THERE ROSES...?!
SEE THAT?
THAT'S WHAT USUALLY HAPPENS
THIS ISN'T NORMAL
NO, DON'T!
SHAKE SHAKE
SHHHH

WHEN DID...
...HE CHANGE...?
WHY CAN'T HE GET IT?
WHAT ON EARTH IS MISSING?
SNIFFLE
MMM, IT'S A TREAT!
POUR
HE USED TO BE HAPPY, ALWAYS SAYING IT WAS SO DELICIOUS,
OH YEAH, I CAN DO IT!
AH, IT LOOKS DELICIOUS TAKA-CHAN YOU'RE AWESOME
BUT SOMEHOW, AT SOME POINT
IT'S YUMMY
YUP
YOU'RE GOOD, TAKA-CHAN
YUP, IT'S YUMMY
BY THE WAY, WHAT'RE YOU MAKING?
GAAHH
GAAHH
GAAHH
GAAHH
WHY IS THAT? WHAT'S THAT PAUSE?
DARN IT
GURRR

SHUT UP AND GO AWAY, YOU UGLY DUCKLING
BOO BOO
SO, YOUR DEAR MINORU HASN'T FALLEN FOR YOUR SWEETS YET?
I'LL SURPRISE HIM BIG TIME
OH, WORKING HARD BRO?
GOOD JOB
'CAUSE YOU CAN'T MAKE IT YOURSELF, YOU'RE GETTING ME TO MAKE IT FOR YOU
STOMP
THAT'S NOT THE WAY TO TALK TO YOUR SPONSOR
HUH?!
SHE SHARES THE COSTS FOR THE INGREDIENTS
AND TRY TO MAKE IT YOURSELF AS MANY TIMES AS YOU WANT
WELL...
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S SMART FOR A CUTE GIRL LIKE ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF AS SOMEONE WHO LOVES BAKING SWEETS?
I WANNA KNOW WHO'D FALL FOR THAT
I'M JUST MAKING SURE THESE SWEETS ILLUSIONS AREN'T SHATTERED
SHE'S THE TYPE WHO DECEIVES GUYS.
I'D BETTER WATCH OUT
SIGH
AHH...
WHILE I TROUBLE MYSELF (WITH MY SISTER AND ALL)...

...I KNOW.
I WANT YOU TO CONTINUE MAKING MY PORTION, THOUGH.
HO HO HO
YOU GET SO IRRITATED IT'S NOT GOOD FOR YOUR PSYCHOLOGY YOU MIGHT AS WELL QUIT
UMM...
IT COULD BE THAT MINORU CHAN'S TASTE BUDS AREN'T NORMAL
I MIGHT AS WELL QUIT IF I GET SO UPSET OVER THIS.
BUT...
I KNOW THAT
IT'S NOT LIKE THE WAY IT USED TO BE... ANYWAYS, IT'S NO FUN TO BAKE SWEETS ANYMORE
BUT.
THERE'S THIS SOMETHING
AND, THE PROBLEM IS...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT, BUT SOMETHING BOTHERS ME

GUYS ARE FUNNY CREATURES...
MUNCH
AHH I WON'T BE PAYING FOR THE MESSED UP PORTION
THE CREAM!!
TURNED INTO BUTTER!!
AHHHH!!
もろもろ!!
MIXXX
!!
OH NO
UHH WHAT?
SPONGE CAKE
GOING BACK TO THE BASICS
SIGH
DON'T EAT IT
YEAH? WITH HOMEMADE BUTTER?
WHAT?
I'M JUST WHIPPING SOME CREAM
WHAT?
WELL, IT'S FINE TO FIND SOMETHING INTERESTING,
EVEN IF IT'S BAKING CAKES EVERY DAY, BUT
IT'S NOT LIKE HE SAYS IT TASTES BAD BUT HE DOESN'T PRAISE IT EITHER, RIGHT?
MUNCH MUNCH
HEY, TAKASHI
THAT'S WHY I ALWAYS ASK YOU TO EAT ME AN HONEST OPINION FOR
OH NO!!
WHAT?
I WANTED TO ASK YOU THIS FOR A WHILE NOW
WHY DO YOU BOTHER WITH MINORU CHAN SO MUCH?
SOB SOB

I MEAN IT
I REALLY DO THINK YOUR CAKES ARE DELICIOUS
YOU SHOULD DO WHAT YOU ENJOY DOING INSTEAD OKAY?
SO
YOU REALLY DON'T HAVE TO FORCE YOURSELF TO BAKE THEM ANYMORE
I'M FORCING MYSELF?
AH, I REMEMBER
THAT LONELY SORT OF LOOK
WHAT WAS THAT LOOK OF HIS?
カリ RATTLE
カリ RATTLE
FORCING MYSELF?
SHIFT

...
TO BITE
LET ME TRY
...IGN'T ACCEPT DEFEAT
DOOM
WHAT ABOUT THIS ONE?!
...
CHEW CHEW CHEW
UHH
IT'S YUMMY
YEAH
UHH
カリ
DISAPPOINTED?
NOT AGAIN...
UHH UHH
HE DOESN'T EVEN HAVE THE ENERGY TO GET UPSET TODAY...
SOB SOB
UHH, YOU KNOW TAKA-CHAN

MINORU?
MY MOM...
SHE LEFT. THAT'S WHY I CAN'T ASK HER TO MAKE ME ONE.
WHY?
WHY DON'T YOU ASK YOUR MOM?
I DON'T KNOW
MY DAD'S TOO BUSY...
SO I HAVE TO FIX IT MYSELF.
I MUST GET HIM TO TELL ME...
...IT'S DELICIOUS.
TAKA-CHAN...
...DO YOU KNOW HOW TO MAKE FLAN CARAMEL?
HOW COME...
BUT WHY?
AM I FORCING...
...MYSELF TO DO IT?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND
NO.
I CAN'T QUIT JUST LIKE THIS
THAT'S WRONG.

TO THINK OF IT, MINORU'S PARENTS GOT DIVORCED.
IT'S NOT NICE →
UNDER THAT SILLY, IDYLLIC LOOK THERE'S A HIDDEN, DARK PAST
THAT WAS IT
I THINK.
BUT
IT HELPED ME TO REMEMBER.
OKAY
MY OLD MEMORIES . . .
WHY DID I DREAM ABOUT THAT NOW?
EVER SINCE THAT DAY, I BEGAN MAKING SWEETS
I'D TOTALLY FORGOTTEN ABOUT THAT
WHAT A SIMPLETON I AM.
IT STARTED WITH THAT FEELING OF SYMPATHY.

SO . . .
I'LL MAKE YOU ONE EVERY DAY, THEN.
SNIP
GIVE IT TO ME
I'LL MAKE REALLY YUMMY ONES, OKAY?
RING リン
RING リン
RING リン!
"SO" . . . ?
CLICK

THEN I GOT CAUGHT UP IN IT.
THE IDEA OF MAKING SOMETHING DELICIOUS
I KEPT GOING AT IT
HERE!
SCHOOL UNIFORMS FINALLY ARRIVED
G'MORNING! EVEN THOUGH IT'S ALREADY NOON
HE'S LATE BECAUSE HE WAS COOKING!
SNACK BAG
HE'S READY?
MUSH
MUSH
WITH FORK AND ALL
YUMM
I DON'T GIVE UP SO EASILY.
YOU MADE SOMETHING FOR ME AGAIN?
YEAH.

THAT'S NOT EXOTIC
FLAN CARAMEL?
IT'S NOT THAT EXCITING!
NO WAY!
IT'S MADE FROM SCRATCH I DIDN'T USE THE PREPACKAGED MIX
WHAT ABOUT OURS?
RUSTLE!!
IT'S FLAN CARAMEL.
I KNEW YOU'D COMPLAIN, SO I DIDN'T MAKE ANY FOR YOU
REST ASSURED
WHAT?
HE DIDN'T MEAN IT
NOT AT ALL
PLEASE
ZIP IT!
A BITE?
GLANCE

DON'T YOU...
DO YOU THINK IT'LL TASTE GOOD?
OF COURSE, IT WILL BE YUMMY
...SMILE?
WHY...?
HOLD TIGHT!
YUP!!
SUTTER
SPLAT
IT'LL BE DONE IN NO TIME
WHEN YOU THINK IT TASTES YUMMY, RIGHT?
YOU HAVE TO SMILE!
OOF'S...
GOT IT.

I GUESS THAT'S NOT A SURPRISE. IT'S NOT LIKE MY SKILL HAS IMPROVED OR ANYTHING
TAKA-CHAN
HMM?
THE CHANGE IN MY FRAME OF MIND CAN'T MAKE THAT MUCH OF A DIFFERENCE
HEH
THIS IS YUMMY
MUNCH MUNCH
CHOCK
STARE
YEAH, IT'S YUMMY.
PIKA-PIKA-PIKA
AHH
IT MUST TASTE GOOD
おぁん
IT'S NOT GOOD, HUH...
HERE
MINORU
HUH?
IT'S A BIT DIFFERENT
REACTION

HMM?
YOU MEAN I ABOUT YESTERDAY
PUZZLED
B-BUT!! WHY DID YOU...?
BUT, TAKA-CHAN
PSSH
PSSH SSH
WHAT A QUESTION!
W-WHAT WAS THAT?
DON'T LAUGH
?!
IS FLAN CARAMEL YOUR FAVORITE FOOD OR WHAT?
OF COURSE, THE INGREDIENTS, THE RIGHT OVEN TEMPERATURE, ETC...
THERE ARE LOTS OF CONDITIONS
TAKA-CHAN
DO YOU KNOW HOW TO MAKE TASTY SWEETS?
DO YOU MEAN TO LECTURE ME?
HUH?
BUT
DARN IT GUESS THAT WASN'T IT THEN
MUTTER
YEAH, BUT

I THINK...
MAYBE IT WASN'T BECAUSE OF THE OLD PROMISE. IT WASN'T EVEN BECAUSE I FELT SORRY FOR MINORU.
AND OF COURSE, IT WASN'T BECAUSE I WANTED TO SATISFY MY PRIDE.
THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER WAS—
UHH
CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?

YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING PLEASE DON'T STOP!!
ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO STOP BAKING?
NO WAY!
YOU'RE NOT INTERESTED IN THE FISH YOU CAUGHT?
YOU PROVIDED THE ONLY PLEASURE
WHAT'RE YOU SAYING? I TOLD YOU BEFORE
YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE WILL GO UP
I WAS GOING TO BAKE UNTIL MINORU FELL FOR MY SWEETS
HEY
DO YOU REALLY MEAN TO STOP, TAKA-CHAN?
THAT'S TOO BAD
THEIR PORTIONS ONLY
DON'T SAY THAT
WHAT ABOUT TWICE OR ONCE A WEEK EVEN!!
NOPE
NO WAY
PLEASE
KAWAAAN

I'VE COME TO REALIZE
THAT THE COOK'S FRAME OF MIND
OF MAKING SOMETHING TASTY
I COULDN'T STOP
IS ACTUALLY IS REFLECTED IN THE FLAVOR
I WAS SO CAUGHT UP WITH THE IDEA
THE FLAN CARAMEL YOU MADE YESTERDAY
TASTED JUST LIKE THE ONE YOU USED TO MAKE FOR ME
I DIDN'T MEAN IT TASTED LIKE THE PREPACKAGED MIX
HEY, WAIT!
WAIT A SEC!
STOMP
STOMP
TAKASHI!!
AH!
THERE YOU ARE!!
BY THE WAY I WONDER WHAT'S SCIENCE EXPERIMENT WE'RE DOING TODAY
HEH HEH
TSUN
YOU
HOW SCARY
HE SAW THROUGH ME

POSTSCRIPT

THIS IS MY FIRST PUBLICATION WITH THIS PUBLISHER
WHAT A SURPRISE!
THIS IS MY SECOND BOOK THOUGH
THIS IS A LUKEWARM BOYS' LOVE
I'M SORRY I APOLOGIZE
AND THANKS FOR READING.
I'M ALWAYS IN THE SAME OUTFIT
I GUESS, AT LEAST I'M NOT WEARING LONG SLEEVES
EVEN THOUGH IT WAS A COMPLETELY NEW GENRE OF MANGA I MADE MY FIRST ATTEMPT AT BOYS' LOVE
SO PLEASE DON'T BE FRUSTRATED BY MY STORIES
LIKE THIS
IS "BOYS' LOVE" DIFFERENT FROM YAOI?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GAYS AND HOMOSEXUALS
I ENJOY DRAWING BOYS MORE THAN GIRLS BUT SOMETIMES I GET FRUSTRATED
ANYHOW I'LL CONTINUE TO DO MY BEST
AND OF COURSE IT'S NATURAL THAT IT DOESN'T QUITE WORK
THE "NOT QUITE-WORKING" PART ACTUALLY WORKS BEST
THAT'S WHAT MR EDITOR-IN CHARGE SAID TO ME I WASN'T SURE WHAT TO THINK
I SUPPOSE HE MEANT TO ENCOURAGE ME

RECIPE*END

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BEYOND MY TOUCH #1 - #3
(THIS TOTALLY SHOWS HOW POOR I AM IN COMING UP WITH TITLES.)

IT WAS SUPPOSED TO END IN ONE EPISODE. BUT WHEN I SUBMITTED THE PLOT FOR THE STORY, I WAS TOLD THAT THE LOVE-RELATIONSHIP FOR THE MAIN CHARACTERS WERE NOT THERE. IT'S SO TRUE. I WAS ALSO ASKED IF I'D WANT TO GO FOR A FOUR-EPISODE SERIES, BUT AT THE TIME, I FELT THREE EPISODES WERE JUST ABOUT ALL I COULD HANDLE. I REGRETTED THIS ENORMOUSLY WHEN I STARTED WORKING ON THE THIRD EPISODE. I DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH PAGES (AND I ENDED UP WITH ADDITIONAL PAGES). A PLAN IS NEVER DEFINITE, YOU KNOW. THIS WAS THE VERY FIRST MANGA SERIES THAT I WORKED ON. I LEARNED A LOT.

COOL LIPS
(I CAME UP WITH THE TITLE BECAUSE OZUKI SEEMS LIKE A GUY WITH LOW BODY TEMPERATURE.)

THERE ARE THINGS THAT OVERLAP WITH THE MANGA ABOVE... LIKE "SCHOOL," FRIENDS (?), AND "YOUTH (LAUGH)." ANYWAY, WORDS LIKE THAT MAKE ME THINK OF SUMMER. WHEN I WAS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, I LOVED THE HOT, FULL SUMMER. IN THIS STORY, THE LOCATION THE MAIN CHARACTER STOPS BY IS MODELED AFTER SHIROATO PARK, A PLACE WELL-KNOWN FOR ITS RIVER BOATING. I INCLUDED SOME OF MY NOSTALGIC MEMORIES - BECAUSE I USED TO LIVE AROUND THERE.

OZUKI'S ILLNESS IS BASED ON APLASTIC ANEMIA. APPARENTLY, NOWADAYS IT CAN BE TREATED BY REPLACEMENT THERAPY TO SUPPLEMENT THE BONE MARROW.

RECIPE (IT'S NOT A CREATIVE TITLE. I GUESS THAT'S NOT A SURPRISE.)

EVERYTHING WAS A "FIRST TIME" FOR ME WITH THIS MANGA. IT'S BEEN A YEAR SINCE I DEBUTED WITH THE MANGA THAT I SENT IN. THE FACT IS, I HADN'T WRITTEN MANGA FOR A WHILE WHEN I STARTED THIS ONE. THIS WAS MY FIRST BOYS' LOVE (SORT OF) STORY. THIS WAS THE FIRST MANGA THAT I HAD MR. EDITOR-IN-CHARGE TAKE A LOOK AT— I MEAN, THE FIRST TIME ANYONE SAW AN EARLY DRAFT. IT'S A CLUMSY SORT OF MANGA, BUT I ENJOYED DRAWING SWEETS VERY MUCH SO, THE CHARACTERS WERE ALL SILLY TOO, WHICH MADE IT EASY FOR ME.

I PROBABLY PUT A LOT MORE WORK INTO THE COVER PAGE OF THIS STORY THAN INTO THE COVER OF THE BOOK ITSELF. OOPS.

WHAT THE HELL ARE THESE INGREDIENTS?

special thanks to

EVERYONE ON THE EDITORIAL STAFF,
ESPECIALLY TO MR. EDITOR-IN-CHARGE

AND TO THE ASSISTANTS (FOR "BEYOND MY TOUCH" #3),
AKIZUKI-SAN AND ESAKI-SAN. THEY SAVED ME WITH
THEIR BLACK PAINT.

——— and You

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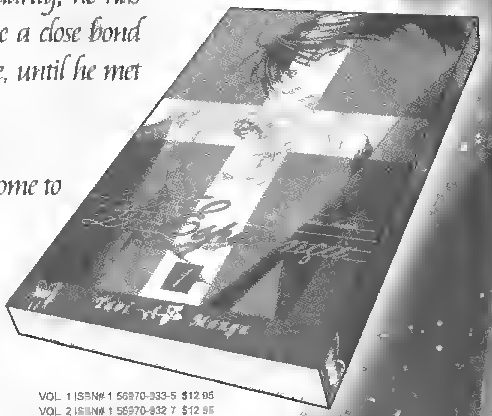

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OR SUCCUMB TO
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Three's a crowd.
Only one thing can keep them together...

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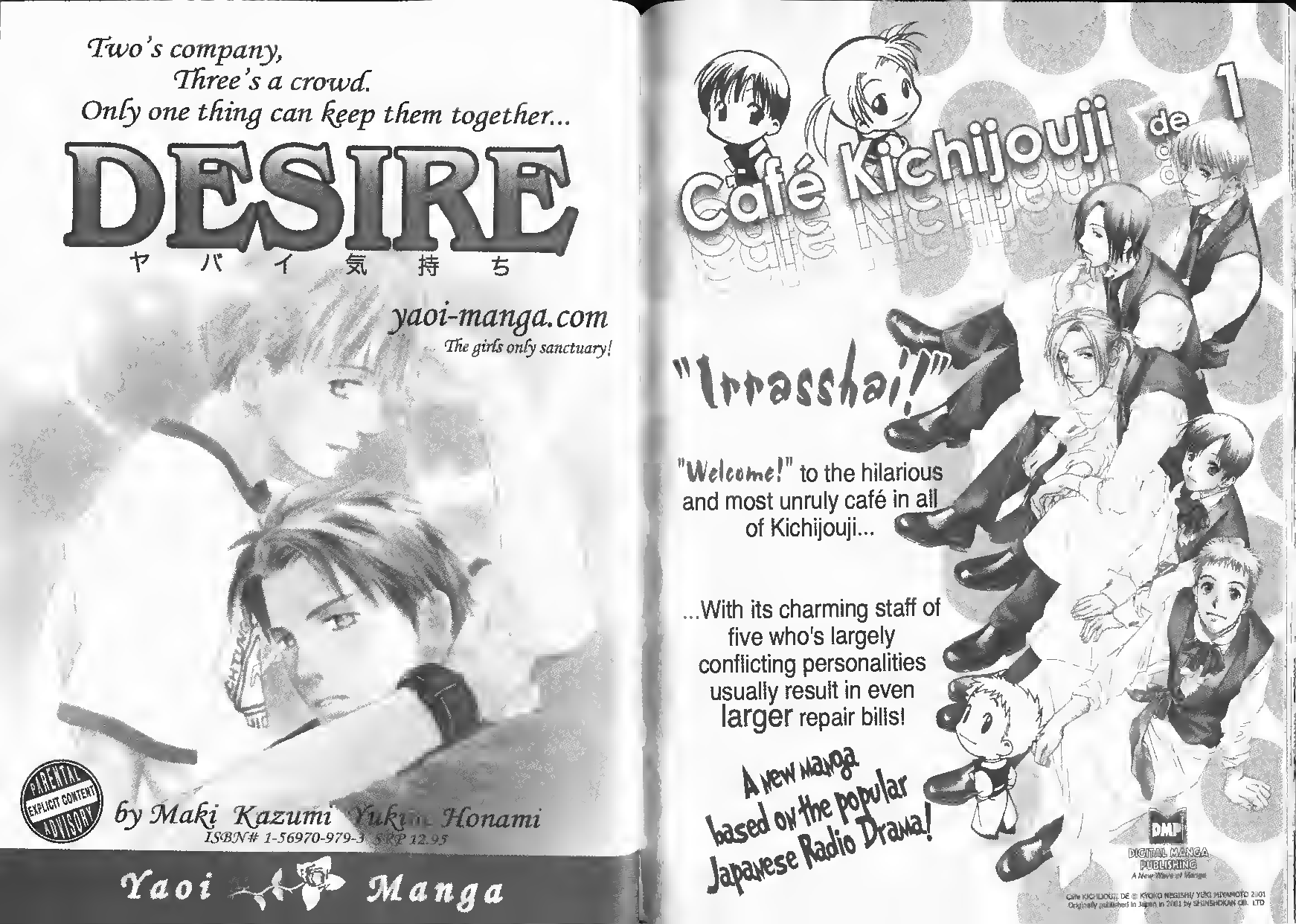

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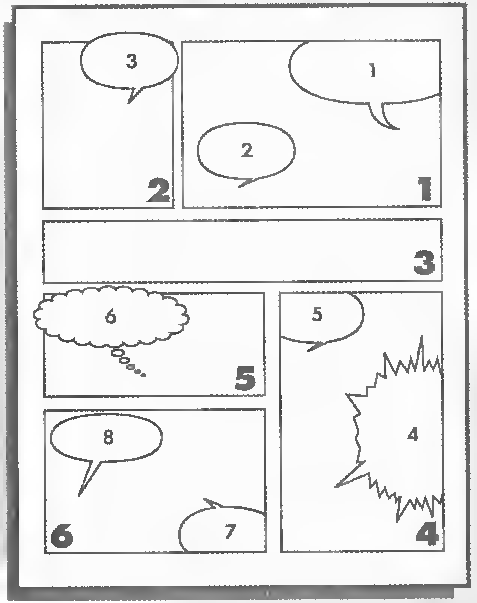

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